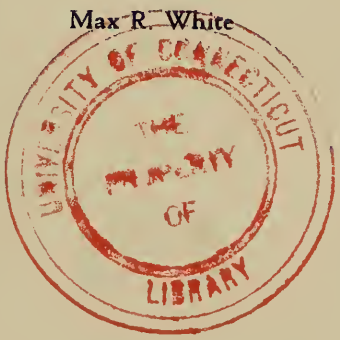
HANDBOOK

FOR

CONNECTICUT SELECTMEN

By

Max R. White



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CONNECTICUT SELECTMEN

A Guide to the General and
Specific Powers of Selectmen Together
With Statutory Citations

By
Max R. White

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INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of this Handbook is to provide selectmen of the towns of this state with a guide to the statutes which regulate their duties. It is anticipated that experienced selectmen will find the Handbook useful as a ready reference to the statutes and that selectmen serving on the board for the first time will find it also helpful in acquiring a working knowledge of their duties under the law. In addition, the Handbook should prove useful to teachers and to citizens in bringing to them a more complete understanding of the vast number of duties for which selectmen are responsible in the administration of town affairs.

In preparing this Handbook, an effort has been made to include reference to each power and responsibility conferred by the General Statutes either upon the selectmen as a board, or upon the first selectman alone. It is intended, however, that the Handbook should be a supplement to the statutes, not a substitute for them. The author has deliberately varied the amount of detail on various provisions; those that are obsolete or are of interest to only a few towns are brief, while the more important ones are carried in some detail. Also, certain detailed laws, such as those relative to the use of voting machines, have been presented in a condensed form. It is suggested that selectmen and other persons using this Handbook consult the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1949, for complete information relating to a specific question of power or authority. Where towns are operating under special acts or charters, such acts or charters should be consulted before taking action on any of the powers listed in this Handbook.

In a number of instances, the Handbook includes powers delegated to towns by the General Statutes, since the selectmen usually exercise these powers in actual practice. Other powers of the town and the town meeting may be found in *The Connecticut Town Meeting* which was published by the Institute of Public Service in 1949.

Throughout the text, references have been included to sections of the General Statutes. Numbers in parentheses preceded by an S, as (S.510), refer to sections of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1949; numbers in parentheses preceded by an S and followed by an a, 1949 Supplement, as (S.666a, 1949 Supplement), refer to sections of the 1949 Supplement to the General Statutes.

The author, Max R. White, Associate Professor of Government at the University of Connecticut, prepared *The Connecticut Town Meeting*

in 1949 and it was quite natural that he should have been invited to undertake this work. We acknowledge our debt of gratitude to him. Grateful acknowledgment is also made to Clinton R. Beebe, First Selectman, Town of Mansfield; to George E. Hinman, of Willimantic, former Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court of Errors; and to Miss Amalia M. Toro, Election Attorney, Office of the Secretary of State, for assistance to the author during the preparation of this Handbook.

The Institute of Public Service assumes full responsibility for any errors of omission or commission in the text. We will be most grateful to those readers who may call to our attention any such errors as well as to those who suggest ways of improving future editions of this Handbook.

Joseph M. Loughlin
Director, Institute of Public Service.

January, 1951.

SOME HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE OFFICE OF SELECTMAN

The office of selectman, unlike some other offices in colonial America, was not imported from England, but gradually evolved in New England. It may have been influenced by the office of churchwarden in the English parishes, but it was more likely modelled on the board of assistants of the Charter of the Colony of Massachusetts. The first record of the use of the term "selectmen" is found in Charlestown, Massachusetts, in 1635. Connecticut had selectmen, who were called "townsmen," in the town of Hartford as early as 1639; and the term, select men, is found in the first Code of Laws of Connecticut in 1650. In the seventeenth century, these officials were referred to in various towns and laws as select men, townsmen, select townsmen, or "those appointed to order the affaires of the town."

From the beginning, the selectmen have exercised the general power to superintend the concerns of the town. Originally they carried out the instructions of the town meetings which were held frequently to decide the most minute details of town business. As the town meetings became more formal and were held at less frequent intervals, the selectmen acquired more discretionary power. Many of the important duties exercised by selectmen today originated in the seventeenth century. Among these are care of the poor and the insane, administration of the financial affairs of the town, admission of electors, warning of town meetings, administering of oaths to elected officials, and seeing that the boundaries of the town are properly marked. The layout of highways was their responsibility in the early days, but the important function of the care of the highways was exercised originally by the surveyors of highways. The germ of the power to issue licenses and permits is revealed in their "nominating" taverners to keep houses of public entertainment.

Some of the powers exercised at various times by the selectmen have either been transferred to other officials or become obsolete. "Taverners" are now licensed by the state. The selectmen no longer meet twice a year with the justices of the peace, grand jurors, constables, and tythingmen* to consult about the suppression of profaneness, vice, and immorality, although they are still authorized to spend $500 a year for the prosecution of crime. Nor are they now required to keep a stock of ammunition in

*The principal functions of the tythingmen were to preserve good order in the church during the divine service and to make complaint of any disorderly conduct. These officers no longer exist in Connecticut towns.

the town. The selectmen were on the board of health from 1805 until 1893, when their duties were taken over by the town health officer. From 1714 to 1798, the selectmen and justices of the peace were required to inspect local schools once every quarter year and inquire into qualifications of the masters, the proficiency of the children, and give needful directions to increase knowledge, civility and religion.

The powers that the selectmen have gained since the seventeenth century have more than made up for those they have lost. After a considerable period of experimentation with various methods of providing for the care of the highways in the latter part of the nineteenth century, this function has come to rest largely with the selectmen. The various activities of the selectmen relating to elections were gradually added during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as the need for greater regulation of elections became apparent. Duties in the field of finance have expanded with the increasing expenditures of the towns. Social, economic, and technological changes have brought responsibilities in fields such as public service corporations, housing, planning, zoning, aeronautics, and traffic regulation.

The number of selectmen has varied from town to town and from time to time, but a Connecticut law of 1673 provided that each town was required to elect a number of selectmen not exceeding seven. This remained the law until 1915 when it was provided that towns having a population of less than 10,000 should elect not more than three. The requirement that the minority party be represented among the selectmen was also introduced in 1915.

The office of first selectman must have existed in practice before 1860, but for the first time in that year the office was mentioned in a law, which provided that the first selectman should be town agent. In 1874, for the first time, the election of the first selectman separately from the other selectmen was provided for by law. Since that time several powers have been vested in the first selectman alone, but it is still true that most powers are given legally to the selectmen as a body. The predominant position that the first selectman holds in most towns today is the result almost entirely of custom.

The office of selectman originated in New England to meet the natural need for an executive agency for town affairs. From the beginning the board of selectmen had a central role in the government of the town. Their powers have gradually increased through the centuries. By custom, one of the selectmen has come to carry on the day-to-day activities of the board, and this position of first selectman is now recognized in the law.

ELECTION, OATH AND BOND OF THE SELECTMEN

Election. The selectmen are elected at the biennial town meeting in towns in which the regular town meetings for election of officers are held every two years and at the annual town meeting in towns in which the regular town meetings for this purpose are held each year. Most towns elect a first selectman and two other selectmen; however, any town with a population of 10,000 or more may elect a first selectman and not more than six other selectmen. In the election of selectmen, the votes cast for the unsuccessful candidate for first selectman are counted as votes for him as a member of the board of selectmen. (S. 510.)

If a vacancy occurs for any reason in the office of selectman, the town may, in legal town meeting, fill the vacancy. Until the town takes action, however, the selectmen may fill the vacancy. (S. 517.)

Restrictions on Selection. There are a few restrictions that affect membership on the board of selectmen. As in the case of other town officers, a selectman must be an elector of the town; if any selectman ceases to be an elector of the town he no longer may serve as a selectman of the town. (S. 516.) The board of selectmen must represent at least two parties. No more than a bare majority of the board may be members of the same political party. (S. 510.) In the election of selectmen, if the number to be elected is even, no person shall vote for more than one-half of the number; and if the number is odd no person may vote for more than a bare majority. (S. 515.) Certain other offices may not be held by a selectman; these offices are town clerk, town treasurer, tax collector, judge of probate, and registrar of voters. (S. 511.)

Oath and Bond. Before entering upon the duties of office, the selectmen must take the oath of office* and furnish bond to the town. They must be duly sworn; and the person administering the oath must file a certificate that the oath has been taken with the town clerk, who must record the certificate. (S. 533.) Ceremony and form of oath. (S. 3573-76.)

The bond must be a good and sufficient bond, satisfactory to the town treasurer, and conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of the office. The requirements as to the amount of the bond are different in the larger towns from those in the smaller towns. In towns of 15,000 or over in which the selectmen are the financial agents of the town, the bond for the first selectman is not less than $3,000; for any other selectman it is not less than $2,500; however, the town meeting may require a bond of higher amount. In any other town, the town meeting may require a bond for the selectmen that does not exceed $3,000. (S. 534.)

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*Among the local officers who may administer the oath are justices of the peace, notaries public, and town clerks. (S. 3575.)

GENERAL POWERS OF THE SELECTMEN

The statutes describe certain general powers of the selectmen, and also specifically note several miscellaneous fields of activity.

In two brief statements, the General Statutes designate most broadly the powers of the selectmen as a board and of the first selectman, individually. The selectmen shall superintend the concerns of the town. (S. 536.) The first selectman shall be the town agent. (S. 510.) There has been no elaboration of these statements in the laws and the courts have apparently had no occasion to determine in detail what they mean.

The following comment from a decision of the Supreme Court of Errors is the most specific observation that could be found on the role of the first selectman: "The selectmen are a board or committee of the town and their duties are collective. It is convenient, if not necessary, to the orderly and efficient conduct of their business, that they should have a head or chairman who may act for them in matters of routine and other matters which have received their approval. For a long time one of the selectmen has occupied this rank or position and has been called first selectman . . . " (Buck v. Barnes, 75 C 462-3.)

Certain other more specific descriptions of the selectman's activities, but miscellaneous in character, are also found in the statutes.

The first selectman in any matter before the board of selectmen may administer oaths. (S. 3575.) Ceremony of oath. (S. 3573.) Oath or affirmation. (S. 3574.) Form of oath. (S. 3576.)

The town may take by eminent domain land for a town hall and necessary outbuildings (S. 7174.); for schoolhouses and other school purposes (S. 7176.); for public square, common, or parks (S. 7180); for the erection of a building for the protection of its records against fire (S. 7184). Procedure for condemning land. (S. 7181, 7184.)

Towns may prosecute and defend civil actions, may appoint agents to appear in their behalf and may employ attorneys in such actions (S. 7794.)

In a suit against a town, process shall be served upon the clerk or one of the selectmen. (S. 7774.)

Action of summary process may be obtained by the selectmen to gain possession of any land or building belonging to the town which is held under a lease; procedure. (S. 666a, 1949 Supplement.)

To protect persons supplying labor or materials on public work, contractors for jobs exceeding $1,000 must furnish bond to the town for the amount of the contract, with a surety or sureties satisfactory to the officer awarding the contract; in addition a performance bond or other security may be required. (S. 7214.)

SPECIFIC POWERS OF THE SELECTMEN

The selectmen are empowered by the General Statutes to carry on a wide range of activities. These powers have been listed alphabetically by principal topics and sub-topics. Powers of the town have been included when it appeared either that the selectmen alone are responsible for executing these powers or when the selectmen must share in their execution with some other authority.

ADVERTISING SIGNS

The selectmen shall remove certain advertising signs at the request of the State Police Commissioner. (S. 4699.) The consent of the selectmen is necessary before the State Police Commissioner may permit the erection of advertising signs designed to benefit local residents or industries, when such signs are otherwise illegal. (S. 4700.)

AERONAUTICS

Appoint the members of the aviation commission if the town votes to have one. Specifications. (S. 696.)

Towns may establish and maintain airports; take land for airports by eminent domain (S. 4824); acquire easements to insure safe approaches (S. 4818); lease airports from private parties. (S. 4828.) Before acquiring a site for an airport, approval of the Connecticut Aeronautics Commission is necessary (S. 4805); all contracts concerning airports must be made pursuant to state laws or federal laws (S. 4827); no license fee is required by the state. (S. 4797.) The governing board of the municipality may designate the Connecticut Aeronautics Commission to accept and contract for federal moneys. (S. 4826.)

Any interested municipality may request a public hearing on an order by the Connecticut Aeronautics Commission granting or denying a certificate of approval to an airport; procedure. (S. 4806.)

BOUNDARY LINES OF TOWN

Each town shall have its bounds set out by plain and durable marks and monuments; specifications. (S. 627.)

Once in each five years, the selectmen shall appoint persons to walk the boundary lines and renew bounds and monuments; this applies to boundary lines with other towns and with a city or borough in the town or in an adjoining town. (S. 628, 627.)

Make application to superior court for establishment of boundary lines when disputed by an official of another town or of a city or borough within or adjoining the town; procedure. (S. 629.)

BUILDING INSPECTION AND SAFETY

Require that all churches and schoolhouses and all public halls have safe exits and be arranged to promote the comfort and safety of persons visiting them; or that they be closed until such requirements are fulfilled. This authority of the selectmen does not apply within cities or boroughs. (S. 4086.)

Examine any building or proposed building with reference to its safety, and order necessary changes or removal; procedure. (S. 4088.)

In a town without a building inspector, the first selectman shall make an inspection by himself or by his duly appointed assistant, of any building claimed to be hazardous and issue necessary orders; procedure. (S. 4101.)

The legislative body* of the town may adopt the state building code and amendments to the code; specification. (S. 4106.) If the code is accepted, the legislative body shall appoint a building officer to administer the code. Two or more communities may combine in appointing this officer. (S. 4107.) The legislative body must approve any variations from the code made by the building officer; specifications. (S. 4112.)

CEMETERIES

The selectmen shall annually provide for the care of neglected cemeteries; specifications. (S. 4719.)

Appoint person to receive and expend income from fund donated to care for cemeteries. (S. 4716.)

CIVIL DEFENSE

(All references in this section are to Public Act No. 4, Special Session of the General Assembly, September, 1950.)

Each town is authorized to establish a local organization for civil defense. (Sec. 7a.)

Any two or more towns or cities may establish a joint organization for civil defense, with the approval of the State Director of Civil Defense. (Sec. 7a.) The chief executive officer of the town shall appoint the director and the advisory council of the local organization for civil defense. (Sec. 7b.) Appropriations by the town for civil defense. (Sec. 7e.)

Request by the chief executive authority of the town for aid from other towns. (Sec. 8a.) Compensation by the state for such aid. (Sec. 8c.)

No person shall be employed in the civil defense organization who advocates change by violence in our government or who is subversive. (Sec. 11.)

Application of workmen's compensation to members of civil defense forces. (Sec. 13.)

Acceptance of federal assistance by the chief executive officer. (Sec. 15.)

COUNTY TAX

The town must pay a county tax; the clerk of the superior court of the county notifies one of the selectmen of the amount of the tax. (S. 40a, 1949 Supplement.)

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*There is a conflict in the statutes as to the definition of "legislative body" of the town. In S. 731 and other sections it is defined as the selectmen. In S. 792 and other sections it is defined as the town meeting. In other sections it is not defined at all, and the courts have not yet given their interpretation. However, the author has included these provisions when the nature of the duties to be performed seems to be such that the power can be exercised more properly by the selectmen than by the town meeting. The courts, of course, are the final authority.

Call a meeting to create such district; procedure. (S. 764.)

DOGS

Damage by Dogs. The selectmen have certain powers and duties when a person sustains damages by dogs and informs the selectmen. The damages must be to sheep, goats, horses, hogs, cattle, or domestic rabbits, which have been confined or enclosed by a fence or wall of material and height sufficient to keep them from roaming; or to poultry, whether or not they are confined to an enclosure. The damages must occur on land within or partly within the town. When the claim for damage exceeds $50, the selectmen shall within five days report the fact to the Commissioner of Farms and Markets for investigation and may call upon the commissioner or his agent to act for them in appraising the damage. Otherwise, one of the selectmen and the person claiming the damages estimate the amount of the damage, including the value of the animals lost or killed, injured, or damaged; if they cannot agree they choose a disinterested third party to assist. The amount of damages to be paid shall be the amount agreed upon by any two of such three persons.

The town pays the damages and the compensation of the disinterested third person. The town may recover this amount from the owners or keepers of the dogs, if residents of the town. If the owners or keepers are not residents of the town, the amount may be recovered from the town of residence, unless the owners or keepers shall pay the amount; the town of residence in such case may recover the amount paid from the owners or keepers. If the town pays damages and cannot recover from the owners or keepers, the selectmen may recover the amount from the state by sending a statement of the facts to the state treasurer.

Supplemental claims of damages to sheep, goats, horses, hogs, or cattle may be made to the selectmen, at any time within thirty days from the discovery of the original damage, and are acted upon in the same way as the original claim.

The selectmen shall order killed the dog which did the damage if the owner or keeper does not pay the damage within ten days after notice of the amount of the damage. (S. 3402.)

Dog Pound. The town shall provide and maintain a dog pound which shall be suitable, comfortable, and sanitary. (S. 3383.)

Dog Warden. In a town which has no city in its limits, the selectmen appoint annually a dog warden for the term of one year from the first day of April and report such appointments to the state Commissioner of Farms and Markets not later than March 20. If the selectmen do not appoint a dog warden, the Commissioner of Farms and Markets does. (S. 3378.) The selectmen have the power to remove a dog warden they have appointed, and to fill the vacancy resulting from such removal. The dog warden may be removed upon complaint of an owner of a dog that the dog warden took such dog contrary to law or abused or cruelly treated a dog. (S. 3382.) The dog warden shall receive three dollars for each dog captured, impounded and killed, sold, or otherwise disposed of; or such other remuneration as the officers of the town may direct; or a salary fixed by the town authorities. (S. 3381.)

Nuisance. Order restraint or disposal of a dog upon complaint that the dog is a nuisance. (S. 3411.)

Pasteur Treatment. Provide for Pasteur treatment (for rabies) for a person injured by a dog; apply to state treasurer for reimbursement for expense for the treatment. (S. 3408, 3402.)

Registration. Post notices on signposts annually before April 1 of certain laws and regulations relating to dogs. (S. 3400.)

The town shall pay five cents for each dog tag ordered from the Commissioner of Farms and Markets. (S. 3387.)

The town clerk shall annually on or before June 1 furnish the selectmen a list in triplicate of dogs registered in the town. They shall keep one list, send one to the Commissioner of Farms and Markets, and give one to the dog warden. (S. 3394.)

EDUCATION

The General Statutes contain several provisions concerning the powers of selectmen relative to school districts. Most of these have been omitted as they are obsolete or apply only to Middletown or West Haven. (S. 1509, 1538, 1556-57, 1559, 1562, 1882.)

Powers relating to the settlement of the affairs of an abolished school district. (S. 1545.) With board of education, sell any property belonging to a former school district. (S. 1542.)

The town may direct the selectmen to apply to the public school building commission for state aid for construction of a school building. (S. 1582.)

Provide vault or safe for preservation of school registers. (S. 1437.)

Allow fees for the arrest of truants; conditions. (S. 1462.)

EJECTED TENANT

When a tenant is ejected and fails to remove his personal effects from the sidewalk, street, or highway, the selectmen shall remove and store them and sell them; conditions. (S. 8284.)

ELECTIONS

Caucuses or Primaries, Enrollment for. Fix the hours for such enrollment, in towns of less than 5,000 population. The period shall be at least three consecutive hours, between 12 o'clock noon and 9 o'clock p. m. (S. 1171.)

Approve compensation and expenses for the performance of duties in enrollment of each registrar and deputy registrar actually engaged and of the town clerk if his compensation is not on a salary basis. (S. 1188.)

Electors, Admission of. (A) Qualifications of electors. The selectmen and town clerk or an assistant town clerk shall decide on the qualifications of electors. (Connecticut Constitution, Amendment XXXVIII.)

Persons who meet the following qualifications shall be electors:

Citizen of the United States
Age — 21
Resident of state one year preceding time of applying
Resident of town six months next preceding time of applying
Ability to read in the English language any article of the constitution or any section of the statutes of the state, at the time of applying
Good moral character. (S. 991.)

A blind person, or one with defective sight, may meet the reading requirement by writing any article of the constitution or any section of the statutes of the state from dictation or read the same in raised print or the point characters used by the blind. (S. 992.) The legal residence of a pauper receiving support is the town to which he is chargeable. (S. 1020.) No idiot or mentally ill person shall be admitted as an elector. (S. 991.) No person shall be deemed to have lost his residence in a town by reason of his absence therefrom in any institution or home maintained by the state. No person who resides in any institution or home maintained by the state shall be admitted as an elector in the town in which such institution or home is located, unless he shall prove to the satisfaction of the board of registration in such town that he is a permanent resident of such institution or home. (S. 1000.)

(B) Sessions for admission of electors. Two sets of provisions in the statutes dealing with the dates and hours of sessions for the admission of electors are to some extent alternatives and to some extent overlap.

(1) In one set of provisions, the statutes set forth quite specifically the days and hours of sessions. The requirements vary somewhat for towns of various sizes, as set forth below. In determining the population group into which the town falls, the last-completed census of the United States shall be used. (S. 1012.) Sessions shall be held as follows:

(a) In towns of 50,000 or more.

In the third week of May, June, July, August, and September of even-numbered years. The day of the week shall be designated by the board of admission of electors. The sessions shall be held at such hours, but not less than three consecutive hours, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. as the board designates.

On the Saturday of the fourth week before each general election from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The board may publicly adjourn this session from time to time, if necessary, until the Saturday of the third week.

On the Saturday of the third week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On the last weekday before the election for not less than two hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for the purpose of admitting those persons whose rights have matured. They shall not have power to admit any applicant on this day whose qualification of age or residence matured, or who was naturalized on or before the Saturday of the third week before the election.

(b) In towns of 10,000 to 49,999

Same as for (a) except that there is no session in the third week of May.

(c) In towns of 5,000 to 9,999

In the third week of June, July, August, and September of even-numbered years. The day of the week shall be designated by the board for admission of electors. The sessions shall be held at such hours, but not less than three consecutive hours, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. as the board designates.

On the Saturday of the fourth week before each general election from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The board may publicly adjourn this session from time to time, if necessary, until the Saturday of the third week.

On the Saturday of the third week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On the last weekday before the election for not less than two hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for the purpose of admitting those persons whose rights have matured. They shall not have power to admit any applicant on this day whose qualification of age or residence matured or who was naturalized on or before the Saturday of the third week before the election.

(d) In towns of 2,000 to 4,999

Same as for (c) except that there is no session in the third week of June.

(e) In towns of less than 2,000

Same as for (c) except that there is no session in the third week of June or July.

Also, in any town with fewer than 500 registered voters, the town meeting may authorize the board to hold the sessions, other than those in August and September, at different hours from those specified; however, any such session must be held between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. and must be for not less than three consecutive hours.

(2) In the other set of provisions, the town meeting may authorize sessions on days and hours in addition to those listed in (1). However, no such sessions shall be authorized to be held during the four weeks prior to any general election. Any session authorized shall be for not less than three consecutive hours, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. If the town meeting authorizes a session or sessions in any of the months of May, June, July, August, or September, the board does not have to hold the session in the third week of that month or those months as required in (1).

The board must give notice of the times and places of its sessions by publication in a newspaper published or circulated in its town and by posting the notice on the signpost of the town at least three days before any such session. (S. 1014-16.)

(C) Procedure for admission of electors. (1) The applicant shall state under oath on a form or forms approved by the Secretary of State his name, residence, birthplace, date of birth, and occupation; how long he has continously resided in this country, this state, and such town; whether his privileges as an elector are forfeited by reason of conviction of crime; whether he has previously been admitted as an elector in any town in the state; whether single, married, widow, or widower; and, if the applicant is a married woman, the date of her marriage and the birthplace of her husband and whether he is an alien or native born.

(2) The application must be signed by the applicant.

(3) He shall read at least three lines of the constitution or of the statutes of Connecticut, other than the title or enacting clause, in a manner that will show that he is not prompted nor reciting from memory. The board of admission shall allow each registrar, if demanded, to select any three lines of the constitution or of the statutes to be read by the applicant. The board may admit any applicant otherwise qualified without reading, who has lost his eyesight and who shall prove by any record evidence that he has heretofore been admitted an elector of this state.

(4) If the applicant is a naturalized citizen, he shall present a copy of the record of his naturalization, under the seal of the court issuing it, and make oath that he is the person named.

(5) Upon the request of any elector of the town, the board shall require the applicant to prove his identity, place of birth, age and residence by the testimony under oath of at least one elector or by the presentation of proof satisfactory to the board.

(6) Each person found qualified may take the oath provided for electors, and shall thereupon be admitted as an elector of the state. Any selectman may administer the oath. (S. 141a, 1949 Supplement.) The form of the oath is as follows: "You solemnly swear that you will be true and faithful to the state of Connecticut, and the constitution and government thereof, as a free and independent state, and to the constitution of the United States; and, whenever you shall be called to give your vote or suffrage touching any matter that concerns this state or the United States, you will

give it as you shall judge will conduce to the best good of the same, without respect of persons or favor of any man; so help you God." (S. 3576.) When an affirmation may be used instead of an oath. (S. 3574.) Special procedure for admitting as an elector a member of the armed forces. (S. 1021-28.)

Electors' Meetings. Designate places, other than the usual ones, for holding state elections. (S. 1053.)

Provide rooms, booths, and ballot boxes. (a) Rooms and booths shall be suitable for holding elections. The number of rooms or booths shall be one for each 150 names on the last-perfected registry list; except that in towns having more than 1,500 names there shall be one for each 250 names. They shall be supplied with necessary conveniences for electors to mark their ballots. The interior of each room or booth shall be secure from outside observation. The rooms or booths shall be located in or connected with the room where the ballot boxes are located. There shall be a ballot booth at which the voter shall obtain his ballot. (b) The ballot box shall be located in an enclosure which shall be so arranged that access to it shall be from the voting booths or rooms. The exit from such enclosure shall be into some other enclosure or hall or into a public street or square; the partition separating it from the main hall shall be not less than three feet nor more than four feet in height. (c) Each ballot box shall have an aperture in its lid for the purpose of depositing the ballots, and shall be so constructed that when the voting is completed the aperture may be closed so that no ballots can afterward be put into the box without reopening it. Also, there shall be an additional box for the ballot stubs; it shall be constructed in the same manner as the ballot box and shall be placed beside the ballot box. These two boxes shall be marked respectively "ballots" and "stubs." Each ballot box shall be provided with a lock. The lock shall be set and securely fastened in a mortise so as to be flush with the side or surface of the box and so arranged as to be locked and unlocked with a key. The keys shall be labeled so as to show to what box they belong; the keys shall be delivered by the selectmen to the town clerk. (S. 1054-56, 1076-78, 519.)

A United States flag, at least three feet by five feet in size, shall be displayed on the wall inside each voting place during the voting hours on the day of any state or national election. (S. 1131.) The selectmen shall provide seventy-five-foot markers. They shall consist of a board resting on an iron rod. The board shall be not less than twelve inches square and painted a bright color. They shall bear the figures and letters "75 feet" and the following words: "No person shall solicit in behalf of another or himself or peddle or offer any ballot, advertising matter or circular to another person within seventy-five feet of any entrance to any polling place on the day of election, except the official ballot booth tenders in charge of the official ballots at each polling place." (S. 1068.)

The legislative body* of the town may divide and, from time to time, redivide the town into voting districts. The legislative body may determine the location of polling places in these districts. The legislative body shall provide suitable polling places in these districts.

When there are voting districts, the selectmen shall perform duties relating to elections in all such districts. (S. 1052.)

Registration. Fix the number of sessions to be held by the registrars of voters for the revision and correction of registry lists. (S. 1004.)

Hear appeals from decisions of registrars of voters to remove or refuse to enter names on the registry list. Procedure. (S. 1006.)

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*See footnote on legislative body under "Building Inspection and Safety."

Erasure of names of persons convicted of crime. Annually, the selectmen receive lists of such persons from the clerks of the courts of the state; written notices are mailed to such persons at their last known places of address; and the selectmen and registrars erase the names from the registry lists. (S. 1007.)

Voting Machines. To be used in each municipality of 10,000 or more (S. 1193); or in towns adopting them. (S. 1192.) Selectmen may provide for experimental use. (S. 1194.) When selectmen may discontinue their use. (S. 1196.)

In towns required to use voting machines, the legislative authority* may direct that the vote upon any question or measure to be submitted to the electors of the town shall be taken by paper ballots if there is insufficient space on the voting machines. (S. 1193.)

Provide voting machines, preserve and keep them in repair, have custody of them, and the care and custody of furniture of polling place when not in use. (S. 1195.)

Appoint mechanic to place and adjust voting machines and prepare them for use, under direction of selectmen; allow assistance to mechanics; other duties with respect to adjustment and preparation. (S. 1197.) Placing of ballot labels on machines; delivering machines and furniture and appliances on day before election; lights for voting machines; collection and storing; additional lines of voters. (S. 1203.) Location in voting place; railings. (S. 1204.)

The board of selectmen or the town clerk shall provide sample ballots in the form of a diagram of the front of the machine. (S. 1198.)

Instruction of election officials in the use of the machine and their duties. Instruction of voters prior to elections. (S. 1202.)

Metal dummy inside polling place. (S. 1208.)

FENCES

Approve method of constructing division fences if different from those methods specified by law. (S. 7155.)

Settle disputes between adjoining proprietors as to division fences. (S. 7158-65.)

Compensation as fence viewers. (S. 3633.)

Give written consent to the use of barbed wire fences along any sidewalk or public highway. (S. 7156.)

FERRIES

Duties of towns and selectmen. (S. 2340-48.)

FINANCE

Accounting. The selectmen shall keep a true account of all expenditures in the form of a permanent record which shall be verified under oath at the end of the fiscal year and shall be made available for auditing purposes and public inspection. (S. 536.)

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*See footnote on legislative body under "Building Inspection and Safety." While the term "legislative authority" is used in S. 1193, rather than "legislative body," there is the same question regarding the definition of this term.

The selectmen shall use the form of selectmen's distribution book and selectmen's orders prescribed by the tax commissioner, except when the accounting system in use in such town can be satisfactorily shown to the tax commissioner to be sufficiently complete and to include the necessary detail. (S. 830.)

Appeal from Action of Tax Commissioner. Any town claiming to be aggrieved by action of the tax commissioner may appeal to the superior court; procedure. (S. 1711.)

Audit. In a town without a board of finance, the selectmen must see that the annual audit is made. They may select an independent public accountant to make the audit. In this case the accountant must be approved by the tax commissioner; and the name of the accountant must be filed with the tax commissioner at least ninety days before the end of the fiscal period. If the average annual tax receipts of a town are $70,000 or less, the selectmen may apply to the tax comissioner to make the audit. If this is done, the town pays the cost of the audit, except that in towns with average annual tax receipts of $50,000 or less, the town pays only one-half the cost. The average annual tax receipts referred to are from property taxation during the three years preceding the audit. (S. 822, 826.)

Bonds, Borrowing, Indebtedness. If authorized by the town, determine the rate of interest and time of payment of bonds. (S. 803.)

The first selectman shall be present at the destruction of bonds redeemed before maturity, and sign the report on such destruction. (S. 809.)

Budget, Appropriations, Expenditures. In a town without a board of finance the selectmen in their annual report to the annual town meeting shall include an itemized estimate of the current expenses of the departments of the town for the ensuing year; this estimate shall include a sum sufficient to pay any deficit of the previous year (S. 1803.); in towns under the Uniform Fiscal Year act, the budget shall be submitted to the annual budget meeting of the town. (S. 818.) The board of education submits to the selectmen an estimate of school expenses at least two months before the annual meeting at which appropriations are made. (S. 1480.)

In towns under the Uniform Fiscal Year act and without a board of finance, publish budget statement in newspaper; specifications. (S. 820.)

In a town with a board of finance, if any department needs to spend more money than has been appropriated for it, in cases of necessity connected with the repair of highways and bridges, or the care of town poor, not more than $100 may be spent without further approval; otherwise, the selectmen shall notify the board of finance of the need for additional funds; the board of finance may appropriate not more than $500; and with the recommendation of the board of finance, a town meeting may appropriate additional funds. (S. 780.)

When appropriations have not been made by a municipality before the beginning of any fiscal year, the disbursing officers may make necessary expenditures during the period of ninety days after the beginning of such year on proper warrants for purposes and in amounts that have been authorized by the appropriating body or by the board of finance or other budget-making authority. Such expenditures shall constitute the first charges against appropriations for the fiscal year in which they are made. (S. 834.)

Claims, Orders. The selectmen shall adjust and settle all claims against the town and draw orders on the treasurer for their payment. They shall make a sworn report to the treasurer of the amount, number, and date of each town order drawn by them, at the end of each month. (S. 536.)

All orders drawn by the selectmen on the town treasurer in payment of the expenses of the town shall be signed by a majority of the selectmen. (S. 602.)

No selectman shall draw any order on the treasurer or any town except in duplicate or upon a blank order which is attached to a blank form of stub. The duplicate or the stub shall contain a comprehensive statement of the amount and purpose for which the order was drawn. (S. 535.)

Before approving claims for articles furnished or for services, the claimant may be required to make oath that the whole of such articles have been furnished or that the whole service has been performed and that no commission, discount, bonus, reward or present of any kind has been received or is promised or expected on account of the same. (S. 697.)

Municipal Reserve Fund. Procedure for creating, using, and discontinuing a reserve fund for capital and non-recurring expenditures. (S. 792-801.)

Reports Under Oath. All reports by selectmen concerning public finances shall be verified by oath. (S. 828.)

Tax Collection. The amount of the bond of the tax collector shall be fixed by the selectmen. The bond shall be procured from a surety company of good standing approved by the selectmen. The premium of the bond shall be paid by the town. (S. 1819.)

Appoint an acting tax collector, when the tax collector, by reason of illness or disability, becomes unable to discharge his duties. The appointment must be in writing. The acting tax collector must be sworn and must give a bond satisfactory to the selectmen. (S. 1820.)

If the tax collector shall refuse to receive the rate bill, or to give the bond required by law, or to collect and pay the tax within the time limit and shall deliver up his rate bill, the selectmen may deputize some person to collect the sums due on such rate bill. (S. 1819.)

Make a rate bill and have it collected, when the town fails to lay necessary taxes or to lay a tax sufficient to pay the current expenses of the town. (S. 1804.)

Make out and sign rate bills containing the proportion which each individual is to pay according to the assessment list. (S. 1813.) The rate bill shall separate personal property from real estate, when the board of assessors at the request of the tax collector uses individual assessment lists and abstract books providing for such separation. The form of the rate bill providing such separation must be approved by the tax commissioner. (S. 1814.)

The selectmen or town clerk shall assign a number to each tax account. (S. 1817.)

Each town shall supply its tax collector with record-receipt books; specifications. (S. 1832.)

Issue a receipt for town taxes, when the original receipt has been mutilated or lost. (S. 1832.)

Abate taxes on persons who are poor and unable to pay them. (S. 1805.) Abate taxes of corporations seeking a loan from an agency of the United States; procedure. (S. 1806.) Abate tax on veteran who has failed to prove exemption in time; procedure. (S. 186a, 1949 Supplement.)

Refund taxes on motor vehicles assessed in more than one municipality (S. 1807.); on veterans who prove exemption too late (S. 186a, 1949 Supplement.); on veterans, when erroneously collected (S. 1811.); or which are excess payments. (S. 1812.) Refund penalties or interest collected from veterans erroneously. (S. 1810.)

Administer poor debtors' oath. The town shall pay to the tax collector the amount of the tax of the person admitted to the poor debtor's oath and also the costs of commitment to jail, if the commitment is made within eight months after the time when the tax became payable. (S. 1841.)

Take action to grant authority to tax collector to defer collection of tax from persons in unusual circumstances. (S. 1855.)

In a town without a board of finance, examine list of uncollectible taxes presented by tax collector, and designate each tax which they believe to be uncollectible. (S. 1846.)

Discharge of tax lien; conditions; procedure; fee of town clerk for recording. (S. 1861.) Fees of collectors and town clerks for continuing, releasing, or recording tax liens. (S. 1857.) The town shall pay to the tax collector the reasonable cost of keeping up-to-date the record of all undischarged tax liens. (S. 1862.)

Preserve lists of taxpayers delivered monthly by the tax collector to the treasurer until the accounts of the tax collector are finally settled. (S. 1830.)

Enforce forfeiture by tax collector of compensation, for having retained tax moneys or tax lists in violation of law. (S. 1829.)

Proceeding against tax collector who falls to collect or pay taxes, or perform his duties. (S. 1835.)

Town Treasurer; Deposit and Investment of Moneys. Fix the amount of the bond of the town treasurer. The bond shall be procured from a surety company of good standing, approved by the selectmen. The premium shall be paid by the town. (S. 536, 599.) Prescribe the bond for the town treasurer when acting as trustee of a trust for the use of the town or citizens of the town. (S. 6889.)

The treasurer of the town deposit fund shall execute a bond, with surety acceptable to the selectmen. (S. 787.)

Appoint an acting town treasurer, when the town treasurer, by reason of illness or disability, becomes unable to discharge his duties. The person must be suitable; the appointment must be in writing. The acting town treasurer must be sworn and must give a bond satisfactory to the selectmen. He shall act until such time as the town treasurer shall be found by the selectmen to have become able to discharge his duties. (S. 601.)

Adjust treasurer's record of receipts and payments, before it is presented to the annual town meeting. (S. 600.)

Designate banks to be depositories of town funds. Any person who shall receive, have control of, or be the custodian or trustee of funds belonging to the town may request the selectmen to make the designation. The selectmen may, in writing, designate one or more banks, and revoke the designation. They may, in writing, specify the fund or funds and the maximum amount thereof which may be deposited in each of such depositories. The instrument making the designation shall be filed with the town clerk. In no case shall the deposit or deposits of public funds by any person in any one bank exceed at any one time in the aggregate thirty per cent of the capital, surplus, and undivided profits of such bank. (S. 831.)

In a town without a board of finance, approve the temporary investment by the treasurer in direct obligations of the United States of America of such portion of the proceeds from the sale of bonds or other funds, including the general fund, as may be deemed available for such purpose. (S. 88a, 1949 Supplement.)

Funds held in trust for the town by the town treasurer shall be subject to inspection by the selectmen. This applies to trust funds for which the trusteeship has become vacant, and the town treasurer has become trustee. (S. 6889.)

Uniform Fiscal Year. In towns without board of finance, duties in connection with change to uniform fiscal year. (S. 812-16,819.)

FIRE PROTECTION

The town meeting may provide for the establishment of a town fire department under the management of the selectmen. If this is done, the selectmen may make regulations for the conduct of the fire department; they may appoint, discipline and remove for cause shown all employees of the department; and they may purchase supplies and equipment necessary for its operation. Or the town meeting may provide that the selectmen shall enter into an agreement with any volunteer fire company or companies within the town for fire protection; this agreement may be based on such conditions as to financial assistance and the observance of the regulations of the board of selectmen as the town meeting may prescribe. However, no town fire department shall supersede any volunteer fire company which is the owner of any building, fire apparatus or other property without having first come to an agreement with such company with regard to the disposition of and compensation for such building, apparatus, or other property. (S. 677.)

Appointment of fire policemen. (S. 666.)

Benefits for volunteer firemen, because of death or injuries. (S. 910, 90a-93a, 1949 Supplement, 915, 94a, 1949 Supplement, 917-19.)

Any town which calls for aid from outside fire-fighting forces must reimburse the political subdivision providing such aid; specifications. (S. 52a, 54a, 1949 Supplement.)

Appoint one or more fire marshals. In towns with one or more volunteer fire departments, the chief of each volunteer fire department shall be the local fire marshal for the territory served by his department. (S. 3669.) Adjoining towns and volunteer fire departments may unite in appointing one fire marshal. (S. 3671.) Dismissal. (S. 3670.) Local fire marshals shall receive two dollars for each fire investigated and reported to the state fire marshal, unless the local fire marshal is paid a salary. (S. 3674.)

The legislative body* of the town must submit to the voters the question of adopting the law providing for an average work week of fifty-six hours for permanent paid firemen. The question must be submitted at the request of not less than five per cent of the total number of electors on the last completed voting list; procedure. (S. 98a, 1949 Supplement.)

FORESTS, TREES, PARKS

Appoint a tree warden. The appointment shall be made within thirty days following the election of the selectmen. He shall be appointed for a term of one year and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified.

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*See footnote on legislative body under "Building Inspection and Safety."

The selectmen shall make a report to the State Park and Forest Commission of the appointment upon blanks to be furnished by the commission; the report shall give the name and address of the tree warden and any other information requested by the commission. The tree warden and his deputies shall receive reasonable compensation as determined by the town; if the town fails to act, the selectmen shall determine the compensation. If both the town and the selectmen fail to act, the State Park and Forest Commission determines the compensation which must be paid by the town. The commission has supervision of the tree warden. (S. 3496.)

Approve regulations of tree warden; approve removal by warden of trees or other plants which are hosts of pests; pay for removal or pruning of a tree or shrub, when such removal or pruning has been ordered by the tree warden. (S. 3497.)

Appoint a town forest commission, if the town meeting votes to establish one; specifications. (S. 647.)

Upon request from municipalities, the state forester shall cooperate in preparation of plans for the protection and management of publicly owned woodlots or timber tracts, the establishment of forest plantations and the marketing of forest products. (S. 373a, 1949 Supplement.)

The town and the State Park and Forest Commission may agree to transfer of control and care of open spaces from one to the other. (S. 3438.)

Written agreement for state forest fire warden to maintain an abandoned highway for forest fire prevention. (S. 3494.)

Appoint an agent for the suppression of gypsy and brown-tail months; fix the compensation of the agent and his employees. The town pays not more than one-half of the compensation and expenses; specifications. (S. 3259-60.)

GAS, ELECTRICITY

When a town has a municipal gas or electric plant, the selectmen may direct that additional information on the finances of the plant be furnished by the board of commissioners or other officials. (S. 718.)

GUIDEPOSTS

Erect and maintain, at each intersection of highways leading to different towns; specifications. (S. 2136.)

HEALTH

Appoint a town health officer. The term for the town health officer is four years from the time of his appointment and until his successor is appointed or until removed. Fill any vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term. These appointments must be approved by the public health council. The persons appointed must be learned in medical and sanitary science. In case of the absence of the town health officer or inability to act, the selectmen may designate a suitable person to act for him. (S. 3847.) The certificate of appointment of any town health officer must be filed with the Commissioner of Health by the selectmen. (S. 3849.)

The first selectman shall, under specified conditions, deliver bodies to the Yale University department of medicine. (S. 4214-15.)

If the town votes to have a district department of health, the selectmen shall appoint the members of the district board; specifications. (S. 3877.) Application to State Department of Health for reimbursement of part of expenditures by town for district department of health. (S. 3881.)

Notify Commissioner of Farms and Markets and local health officer of any case or suspected case of glanders or farcy. (S. 3315.)

Filling or draining swampy or wet places or depressions. (S. 3856.)

Upon complaint by the selectmen, the State Department of Health shall investigate an existing or threatened pollution of the waters of the state and issue necessary orders. (S. 4036.)

Appointment by governor of special police to prevent contamination of water supply, upon application by the town. (S. 4030.) Town authorities may apply to court for order to eliminate pollution of source of water supply or ice; or abate such pollution; procedure. (S. 4026.)

The town shall pay the cost of any general vaccination ordered by the health officer. (S. 3874.)

Notice shall be given by the State Department of Health to one of the selectmen of a hearing by the department on regulations proposed by the town health officer. (S. 3852.)

With the approval of the selectmen, assistant registrars and sub-registrars of vital statistics are appointed. (S. 562, 587.)

Schedule of fees of registrar of vital statistics. (S. 405a, 1949 Supplement.) The town of residence of the deceased person or of the parents of the child must pay the fees of the registrar of another town for records, copies, and endorsements for births and deaths that occur in the other town. (S. 3628.)

In any town in which there is a slaughterhouse, the selectmen shall appoint an inspector of meats; one inspector may act for more than one town. (S. 3334.) The town shall establish fees for the inspection of meat and meat products. The inspector shall be paid for his services by the town; if the inspector acts for more than one town, the pay shall be prorated on the basis of the number of animals inspected. (S. 3338.)

HIGHWAYS

Boundaries. The bounds of new highways shall be marked. At least once in five years, the bounds shall be renewed; they shall be renewed at the request of landowners. Bounds shall be recorded. Specifications for bounds. (S. 2168.) Define the boundaries of a highway, upon application of proprietors of land adjoining such highway; procedure. (S. 2166.)

Construction, Repair, Maintenance. Towns shall, within their respective limits, build and repair all necessary highways and bridges, and all highways to ferries as far as the low water mark of the waters over which the ferries pass, except when such duty shall belong to some particular person. (S. 2117.)

The town at its annual meeting may provide for the repair of its highways for periods not exceeding five years. If the town fails to act, the selectmen may provide for such repairs for a period not exceeding one year. (S. 2117.)

The town shall continue to maintain highways, or sections of highways, and bridges on the trunk line system until they are improved at state expense, unless they have been built or accepted under the statutes relating to state aid, or unless the bridge is on a highway maintained by the highway commissioner. (S. 2263, 2272.)

Material for construction and repair of highways may be taken from private land by agreement with the owner or by court action; procedure. (S. 2152.)

In repairing highways selectmen shall not place stones, rubbish, or waste material on the sides of highways when the sides have been cleared by an adjoining landowner. (S. 2131.)

Persons authorized to construct or to repair highways may make or clear any watercourse or place for draining off the water from the highways into or through any person's land so far as necessary. This shall be done in such way as to do the least damage to the land. Water shall not be drained into, upon, through or under the yard of any dwelling house, or into or upon yards and enclosures used exclusively for the storage and sale of goods and merchandise. (S. 2134.)

A sufficient railing or fence on the side of a bridge and on the side of such parts of any road as are so made or raised above the adjoining ground as to be unsafe for travel shall be maintained or erected by the town on any bridge or road that it is required to maintain. (S. 2125.)

Height of bridge over railroad track. (S. 2124.)

A highway blocked with snow must be opened to public travel by the selectmen if they find it to be required for public convenience or necessity; or upon written request of six taxpayers residing on or near such highway. It must be opened within a reasonable time. If the highway is part of a rural free delivery route and the selectmen fail to open it within five days, anyone residing on the route may open it, and the town must pay for the opening. These provisions do not apply to a highway in any city or borough unless the town has the supervision of the highway. (S. 2132-33.)

Procedure by which a borough within the limits of a town assumes the power to repair highways in the borough. (S. 2130.)

Bridges between towns shall be built and kept in repair by such towns. The expense of building and repair shall be apportioned between them according to the total revenue received yearly from direct taxation in each of such towns, as averaged for the three preceding fiscal years. (S. 2119.)

Highway dividing towns; procedure for layout, repair, resurfacing, or other improvement. (S. 2142.)

Procedure by which a municipality may collect, when the municipality has performed work on a bridge and any other municipality or person is liable for a portion of the cost of the work. (S. 2273.)

Damages and Benefits. Damages or benefits to private parties by change of grade, or excavations in highway; ascertaining amount; collection. (S. 2143.)

Damages or benefits to private parties resulting from layout, opening, grading, or alteration; ascertaining. (S. 2146.)

Benefits assessed where a highway is a dyke against tides. (S. 2151.)

Limits to benefits. (S. 2159.)

Discontinuance of Highways. The selectmen, with the approval of the town, may discontinue any highway or private way, or land dedicated as such. The discontinuance must be in writing. This power does not extend to a highway laid out by a court or by the General Assembly, or to a highway within a city or a borough having control of highways within its limits. (S. 2147.)

When a highway is relocated to construct a railroad, the selectmen may discontinue such parts of the old highway as in their judgment are not of public convenience and necessity. (S. 5505.)

Drawbridges. When drawbridges are required on public highways; how selectmen may apply to superior court to determine when they are not necessary and to fix amount of damages. (S. 2120.)

Gates must be provided subject to the approval of the selectmen. (S. 2121.) If a drawbridge is crossed by a street railway, the town may receive $750 annually from the state; procedure. (S. 2122.)

Engineering Assistance by State. The Commissioner of Highways is authorized, upon application of the selectmen, to furnish supervision, inspectors and engineers. The expense incurred shall be paid by the town. (S. 2197.)

Layout of Highways. Power of selectmen to lay out highways; procedure. (S. 2138-39.)

No street or highway, laid out by private parties, shall be opened to the public until the grade, layout, location, width, and improvements shall have received the written approval of the selectmen. The approval must be filed with the town clerk. The street or highway must be at least three rods in width, unless otherwise approved by the selectmen. The first selectman shall immediately close the street or highway if these provisions are violated and it shall be kept closed until the selectmen approve it. These provisions do not apply in a city or borough. (S. 2141.)

Private Parties. Any person injured in person or property because of a defective road or bridge may recover damages from the party bound to keep it in repair; if action for damages is taken against the town, notice of the injury must be given to the selectmen. (S. 2126, 2175.)

If the selectmen shall refuse to lay out or make necessary alterations in a highway, any person may apply to the superior court; one of the selectmen must be notified. (S. 2154-58.)

When the town fails to keep the roads in good repair or when the selectmen fail to remove encroachments upon the highways or make necessary improvements or alterations, private parties may bring an action before the county commissioners; the first selectman must be notified. The selectmen may be ordered to take corrective action. (S. 2127.)

A highway may be altered by persons or corporations in the construction of a dam, but an agreement must be made with the authorities responsible for maintaining the highway. (S. 2135.)

Corporations engaged in providing public water supplies may apply to the selectmen for permission to alter or discontinue a highway. (S. 2148.)

The superior court may be petitioned to order a railroad company to alter a highway or construct a new highway because a highway has been taken for railroad purposes; and if the railroad does not comply with the order the town shall alter or construct such highway and recover the expense from the railroad company. (S. 2153.)

When a town neglects to construct or repair a bridge and the superior court, upon complaint, directs some person to construct or repair it, the town shall pay the expense. (S. 2123.) Approve payment of money for labor to make or alter highway, as a result of an application to the superior court. (S. 2161.)

Sidewalks. Construct or repair sidewalks or remove snow or ice from them on default or neglect of owner, tenant, or occupant to comply with a by-law of the town. (S. 632.)

Make finding of fact that public convenience and necessity require construction of a sidewalk; specifications. (S. 633.)

Sprinkling of Streets. (S. 681-85.)

State Aid Funds. Provisions which apply only to unexpended funds. State aid funds were discontinued in 1943. (S. 2178, 2218, 2222, 2224.)

Superintendent of Highways and Bridges. Warn the voters of a ballot to be taken at a regular or special town meeting on the question of having a superintendent of highways and bridges; furnish ballots and ballot boxes or voting machines; procedure. (S. 615.)

Approve all bills against the town for highways certified by the superintendent. Countersign requisition of superintendent for his salary. (S. 613.)

Town Aid Funds. Five million dollars of state funds are available annually to the towns for construction, reconstruction, improvement or maintenance of highways, sections of highways, bridges or structures incidental to highways and bridges or their improvement. The funds are to be used under the supervision of the highway commissioner. (S. 2169.)

The amount each town receives is based on the total mileage of improved highways in each town; each town receives $1,000 per mile for the first 23 miles, and $250 per mile for additional mileage. Cities and boroughs not consolidated with towns which have responsibility for their roads receive a pro rata share. The selectmen and the highway commissioner determine the amount of improved highway mileage in the town; if they cannot agree, the highway commissioner decides, subject to an appeal to court by the town. (S. 2170.)

After authorization by the town, the selectmen and the highway commissioner make an agreement as to the location, construction, improvement or maintenance of highways. (S. 2171.)

The town must pay any expense in providing right of way, but engineering and supervision charges are paid by the highway department. (S. 2172.) The provisions of the statutes concerning trunk line and state aid highways apply to these highways, so far as they are not inconsistent; except that the town does not pay any of the cost unless by vote of the town meeting, and except that bridges and culverts need not conform to these statutes. (S. 2173.)

The town meeting may decide how the funds are to be used. (S. 2174.)

The town and the highway commissioner may make an agreement for the use of the funds prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. The town may furnish the funds for this purpose and receive reimbursement from the highway commissioner. (S. 2176.)

One million dollars of state funds are available annually to the towns for the improvement of dirt and unimproved roads. These funds are divided among the towns on the basis of mileage of unimproved highways; the selectmen and the highway commissioner ascertain this mileage for each town. The funds are spent under the supervision of the highway commissioner. (S. 2177.)

If either of these funds is used to construct or reconstruct any highway, section of highway or bridge, the highway commissioner calls for bids and awards a contract. However, the highway commission may award such contract to the town; but the town meeting must authorize the selectmen to enter into the contract. Force account work may be used for the repair of town aid highways. (S. 2178.)

Trunk Line and State Aid Highways. With the approval in writing of the selectmen, the highway commissioner may accept as a state aid road any town road which connects with any trunk line highway or state aid road. (S. 2221.)

The selectmen and the highway commissioner may enter into an agreement to interchange permanently sections of a state highway and of a town highway; and to enter into temporary reciprocal agreements for the removal of snow. Such agreements must be recorded in the town clerk's office. (S. 2234.)

By agreement with the selectmen, the highway commissioner may construct a footpath or sidewalks along a state highway when he finds that public safety requires it; specifications for dividing costs for maintenance, and for liability for accidents. (S. 2242.)

Any town may request the highway commissioner to install lights on a bridge on a state highway, the cost to be paid by the town. (S. 2271.)

Turnpikes. Discontinued turnpikes remain highways, until the town takes action to discontinue them. (S. 2150.)

HOUSING

Determine the need for a housing authority. Power to create a regional housing authority to serve two or more towns. (S. 105a, 1949 Supplement.) Appoint five members as commissioners of the housing authority; designate one as chairman; remove any commissioner; specifications. (S. 106a, 107a, 1949 Supplement.) Power of municipality with respect to payments in lieu of taxes from which municipal housing projects are exempt. (S. 939, 114a, 1949 Supplement.) Appropriate money for administrative expenses and overhead of a housing authority during its first year. (S. 110a, 1949 Supplement.)

Municipalities have certain powers and responsibilities with respect to providing temporary housing for veterans. (S. 967-78.) Enter into a written agreement with a taxpayer fixing the assessment of real estate to be used for housing veterans; specifications. (S. 1739.)

JURORS

The selectmen must prepare each year a list of jurors for the town, except in towns which include cities with the same territorial limits as the town. The list is to be prepared in March and filed with the clerk of the superior court of the county before the first Monday in April. The list shall include the names of twice as many persons as the number provided by law for jurors from such town; the numbers for each town are listed in S. 7928 and S. 658a, 1949 Supplement. (S. 7909.)

The names shall be of persons qualified to be jurors, and not exempt from jury duty. (S. 7909.) In order to be qualified, a person must be an elector of the town at least twenty-five years of age, esteemed in the community as a person of good character, approved integrity, sound judgment and fair education, and with no permanent disability impairing the capacity to serve as a juror. (S. 7906.)

The following persons are exempted: (a) any woman, if she so desires, who is a trained nurse in active practice, an assistant in a hospital, or an attendant nurse, or who is nursing a sick member of her family, or who has care of one or more children under sixteen years of age (S. 7907); (b) all members of any fire company organized under the laws of the state; engineers or wardens of any fire department in any town, city or borough; members of the General Assembly during any regular or special session; attorneys-at-law and physicians in active practice; (c) if he desires to be exempt, each officer, musician and private, who shall perform duty in the active militia, in accordance with the provisions of law, or who may be prevented from doing such duty by sickness, bodily infirmity or other reasonable causes, while liable for such duty. (S. 7927.)

The list shall include names, occupations and places of residence, including the street and number of the dwelling house of each person. A certificate to be provided by the clerk of the superior court must be affixed to the list and signed by the selectmen. (S. 7909.)

The selectmen may be required to provide an additional list of names, equal to one-half the number required by law for the town. Such list shall not include the name of any person who has served on a jury more than twice within a period of five years from the date of the list. (S. 653a, 1949 Supplement.)

LICENSES, PERMITS, REGULATIONS, BY-LAWS, ORDINANCES

Advertising Signs. See ADVERTISING SIGNS.

Auction, Sale by. (S. 4639-40, 4643.)

Billiard or Pool Rooms. First selectman to grant permits to conduct public billiard and pool rooms; procedure. (S. 8657.) The first selectman may order all public billiard or pool rooms to close at midnight. (S. 8658.)

Bingo. Decide whether the playing of bingo may be permitted in the town; procedure; make rules and regulations concerning the conduct of the game of bingo. First selectman to issue individual permits; specifications; revoking of permit. (S. 703.)

By-Laws, Ordinances. In any town which conducts its government under authority of any special act, the selectmen may enact town by-laws and ordinances on certain specified subjects. (S. 619-21.)

Coasting. Limit or prohibit coasting in the highways, under certain conditions. (S. 637.)

Crematory. Approve location of a crematory; procedure. (S. 4723.)

Dangerous Weapons. First selectman to issue written permit for carrying, and to receive notice by seller. Dangerous weapons include any slung shot, air rifle, B.B. gun, black jack, sand bag, metal or brass knuckles, or stiletto, or any knife the edge portion of the blade of which is four inches or over in length, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument. (S. 8540.)

Exhibitions. Licensing and regulation. (S. 4644.)

Fireworks. The selectmen in a town having no paid fire department may issue permits for the sale of fireworks. The license shall bear the date of expiration, which shall be not later than one year after the date of issuance; it shall designate the location for which it is granted; it shall be issued only after inspection of the premises by the selectmen. The fee shall be two dollars for each retail application and twenty dollars for each wholesale application, which fee shall be for the use of the municipality. No license shall be issued for any location where paints, oils or varnishes are manufactured or kept for use or sale unless such paints, oils or varnishes are kept entirely in the original unbroken containers, nor where rosin, turpentine, gasoline or any other inflammable substance which may generate inflammable vapors is used, stored or offered for sale, or where the licensing authority determines that any condition exists which makes the storage or sale of fireworks at such location unusually hazardous. (S. 4143.)

Certain specified fireworks to be used for fireworks exhibition may be purchased only with the written permission of the selectmen. (S. 434a, 1949 Supplement.)

Fuel Oil Burners and Storage Tanks. May enact rules and regulations for the installation of fuel oil burners, equipment thereof, and fuel oil storage tanks. (S. 3682.)

Gasoline, Sale of. The selectmen have the power to approve any location at which gasoline is to be sold in a town, except in towns with town managers or with zoning commissions and boards of appeal. Upon receipt of an application for a certificate of approval of location, the selectmen must give notice and a hearing. The hearing must be held not less than two nor more than four weeks from the date of application. It must be held within the town. Notice of the hearing must be given to the applicant and must be published three times in a newspaper having a circulation within the town not less than one week before the date of the hearing.

The applicant shall pay a fee of ten dollars, together with the costs of publication and expense of such hearing, to the town treasurer. The certificate shall not be issued unless the selectmen shall find that the proposed location is suitable for the sale of gasoline, due consideration being given to the proximity of schools, churches, theatres or playhouses or other places of public gatherings, intersecting streets, traffic conditions, width of highway and effect of public travel, and the safety of the public. Such certificate may be revoked, if there has been fraud or misrepresentation, after a hearing. (S. 2536, 2538-39.)

The selectmen may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to do the above job for them. (S. 2540.)

Itinerant Vendors. The term "itinerant vendor" shall mean any person, whether principal or agent, who shall engage in a temporary or transient business in the state, either in one locality or in traveling from place to place, selling goods, wares and merchandise, and who, for the purpose of carrying on such business, shall hire, lease or occupy any building or structure for the exhibition and sale of such goods, wares, and merchandise. The term "temporary or transient business" shall mean and include any exhibition and sale of goods, wares or merchandise which is carried on in any tent, booth, building or other structure, unless such place is open for business during usual business hours for a period of at least nine months in the year. Exceptions. (S. 4675.)

In addition to a state license, itinerant vendors must have a town license authorized by the selectmen. Application is made to the selectmen. The selectmen authorize the issuance of the license after determining the fee in one of two ways: (1) The applicant shall file with the selectmen a true statement, under oath, of the average quantity and value of the stock of goods, wares and merchandise kept or intended to be kept or exposed by him for sale. The selectmen submit this statement to the assessors who determine the average quantity and value. The fee is equal to the taxes assessable in the town under the last preceding tax levy. (2) The selectmen may authorize the issuance of the license without the filing of a statement upon the payment of a license fee fixed by the selectmen.

The town clerk issues the license, which is valid until the first day of October following its date. (S. 4677.)

Veterans who have resided in the state for two years do not need a license. (S. 4681.)

Junk Dealers. Licensing; procedure. (S. 4647-52.)

Lodging Houses, Including Tourist Camps. The selectmen may grant licenses to suitable persons to be lodging-house keepers and may revoke the licenses for cause. The fee is ten dollars. The license shall designate the

place where the business is to be carried on. The license is for one year. The lodging-house keeper shall keep a register for guests, and the register shall be open to the inspection of the selectmen. Lodging-houses include tourist camps where houses or cottages are rented by the day. (S. 464a, 1949 Supplement.)

Memorials. Approve erection of memorials on town property by the State Commission on Fine Arts. (S. 3534.)

Motor Vehicle Junk Yard. Except in towns having zoning commissions or planning boards or commissions, enact ordinances creating restricted districts for motor vehicle junk yards or businesses; issue certificate of approval of location; procedure. (S. 4654-56, 4659.) Apply to court for injunction against such yard or business conducted in violation of law. (S. 4661.)

Motor Vehicles; Dealing in, Junking or Repairing. Except in a town with a zoning commission and a board of appeals, the selectmen issue certificates of approval for location. There shall be a hearing not less than two nor more than four weeks from the date of the application. Notice of the hearing must be given the applicant and must be published three times in a newspaper not less than one week before the date of the hearing. The applicant pays a fee of ten dollars, together with the costs of publication and expenses of such hearing. The location must be found suitable for the business intended, with due consideration to its location in reference to schools, churches, theatres, traffic conditions, width of highway and effect on public travel.

The selectmen may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to do this job for them. (S. 2391-97.)

Motor Vehicles, Repair of on Sunday. Permit the repair of motor vehicles or the sale of motor vehicle accessories on Sunday. (S. 8607.)

Pawnbrokers. Licensing; procedure. (S. 4664-65.)

Plumbing. Regulate plumbing and house drainage and the licensing of master plumbers. (S. 634.)

Refineries. No persons or corporations shall refine crude or petroleum oils upon the shores of the waters of the state, except under regulations imposed by the selectmen. (S. 4184.)

Refuse Treatment Plant. Grant permit to establish a refuse treatment plant; procedure. (S. 4144.)

Revolver or Pistol. Except in a town with a chief of police, the selectmen issue permits for the sale or carrying of revolvers or pistols. The permit for sale shall be issued on application and shall be in such form as is prescribed by the commissioner of state police.

Before issuing a permit to carry a revolver or pistol the selectmen shall find that the applicant intends to make no use of the pistol or revolver other than a lawful use and that the applicant is a suitable person to receive such permit. No permit shall be issued to an alien. The applicant shall give the selectmen, upon their request, full information concerning his criminal record, and the selectmen shall thereupon take a full description and the fingerprints of such applicant and make an investigation concerning his suitability to carry the pistol or revolver. No permit shall be issued if the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony.

The permit shall be issued in triplicate; one copy shall be given to the applicant, one copy shall be sent to the Commissioner of State Police and one shall be retained by the selectmen. The permit shall be valid for one year, and the fee shall be one dollar for the original permit and twenty-five cents for renewal. The selectmen may revoke the permit; the Commissioner of State Police shall be notified of the revocation forthwith. (S. 4158-63.)

Sewerage Facilities. Approve sewerage facilities of dwellings, apartments, boarding houses, or hotels under certain conditions. (S. 4147.)

Sunday Concerts. Allow the giving of Sunday concerts. (S. 699.)

Sunday Motion Pictures. Authorize motion picture exhibitions on Sundays. (S. 700.)

Sunday Sports. Upon application, permit certain specified sports to be played on Sunday. (S. 49a, 1949 Supplement.)

Sunday Theatrical Exhibitions or Vaudeville Entertainments. Authorization. (S. 701.)

Waste Materials. Pass by-laws relating to throwing or placing of waste materials in the highways and regulating the disposal of the same, under certain conditions. (S. 625.)

Waterways. Permit exceptions to town ordinances fixing lines along waterways beyond which obstructions shall not be placed. (S. 708.)

Wild Animals. Licensing of transportation of wild animals. (S. 8538.)

Zoning for Commercial Structures and Advertising Signs. Except in a town having a zoning commission or planning board or commission, enact ordinances establishing zones within which no commercial or business structure or building, including advertising signs, may be erected; license the erection of any such structure in a prohibited zone; procedure. (S. 849-50.)

LIQUOR CONTROL

Warn the voters of a ballot to be taken at a regular or special town meeting on the question of permitting the sale of liquor or beer; procedure. (S. 4232-33.)

Prepare list of drinkers receiving town support, and order liquor permittees not to provide them or members of their family with liquor; specifications. (S. 4290.)

Forbid the providing of liquor by liquor permittees to specified persons who drink excessively, on complaint; procedure. (S.4291.)

MEMORIAL DAY; OLD HOME WEEK

Sums appropriated by the town for the observance of either Memorial Day or Old Home Week are to be spent under the direction of the selectmen. (S. 651.)

MILITIA

Draft and enlistment of unorganized militia for active service. (S. 1226.) Enrollment of unorganized militia. (S. 1227-32.)

NAVIGATION; FLOOD CONTROL

Enter into agreements with the United States or State of Connecticut in order to satisfy conditions imposed by the United States in authorizing a project for navigation or flood control. (S. 4770.) Act jointly with other municipalities, if the project is located within two or more municipalities. (S. 4771.)

To carry out such projects the town may acquire land, easements, or rights of way by condemnation, make appropriations, expenditures, and issue bonds. (S. 4772.)

NUISANCES

Removal from waterway or tidal water of debris, wreckage or similar material which prevents the free discharge of flood waters. (S. 705.)

Action by selectmen on complaint that adjoining proprietor will not remove obstruction to drainage. (S. 6291.)

Injunction will lie in the name of the town against obstructing a highway. (Footnote to S. 4200.)

Removal of obstructions from lands bordering navigable waters to which public has the right of access. (S. 4756.)

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Appointments. Certain specified town officers are to be chosen by ballot; but all others are to be appointed by the board of selectmen. (S. 513.) The statutes specifically provide for the appointment by the selectmen of the following officers:

Acting health officer. (S. 3847.)
Acting tax collector. (S. 1820.)
Acting town clerk. (S. 547.)
Acting town treasurer. (S. 601.)
Advisory welfare board. (S. 641.)
Agent for suppression of gypsy and brown-tail moths. (S. 3259.)
Aviation commission. (S. 696.)
Board of finance, at time of establishment. (S. 772.)
Civil service commissioners. (S. 870.)
Dog warden. (S. 3378.)
Examiner of land records. (S. 538.)
Fair rent board. (S. 7140.)
Fire marshal. (S. 3669, 3671.)
Gas or electrical commissioners. (S. 716.)
Health, members of a board of a district department of. (S. 3877.)
Health officer. (S. 3847,3849.)
Inspector of meat. (S. 3334.)
Inspector of weights and measures. (S. 6752.)
Measurer of wood. (S. 612.)
Oyster committee. (S. 5069.)
Police surgeon. (S. 673.)
Prosecuting grand juror pro tempore. (S. 7570.)
Redevelopment agency, members of a new. (S. 980.)
Registrar of voters. (S. 511.)
Special constables. (S. 539-43, 608.)
Superintendent of highways and bridges. (S. 614.)
Town forest commission. (S. 647.)
Town manager. (S. 617.)
Tree warden. (S. 3496.)
Trial justice, and alternate trial justice. (S. 7566, 7567.)

Appointments, Approval of.

Assistant registrar of vital statistics. (S. 562.)
Assistant town clerk. (S. 546.)
Clerk to the trial justice. (S. 7569.)
Sub-registrar of vital statistics. (S. 587.)

Compensation, Fixing of.

Agent for suppression of gypsy and brown-tail moths, and assistants. (S. 3260.)
Assessors, if town fails to act. (S. 3632.)
Board of tax review, if town fails to act. (S. 3632.)
Inspector of weights and measures. (S. 6752.)
Police surgeon. (S. 673.)
Prosecuting grand juror pro tempore. (S. 7570.)
Tree warden and deputies, if town fails to act. (S. 3496.)
Trial justice, alternate trial justice, prosecuting grand juror, alternating prosecuting grand juror. (S. 7575.)
Trial justice, for duties in small claims division of the justice court. (S. 7565.)
Town clerk, registrar, and deputy registrar for duties in connection with caucuses and primaries. (S. 1188.)
Registrars of voters, deputy registrars, and assistants. (S. 997.)

Oaths. The selectmen shall, forthwith, after the election or appointment of any town officers of whom oath is required by law, cause them to be sworn to a faithful discharge of their respective duties. (S. 536.)

Official Bonds, Fixing Amount of.

Acting tax collector. (S. 1820.)
Acting town treasurer. (S. 601.)
Assistant town clerk. (S. 546.)
Constables. (S. 605.)
Gas or electrical commissioners. (S. 716.)
Special constables. (S. 540.)
Superintendent of highways and bridges. (S. 613.)
Tax collector. (S. 1819.)
Town clerk. (S. 545.)
Town treasurer. (S. 536, 599.)
Town treasurer, as treasurer of the town deposit fund. (S. 787.)
Town treasurer, as trustee. (S. 6889.)

Whenever any person shall be by law required to give a bond, such requirement shall mean a bond with surety. (S. 3577.)

Pensions; Insurance. Powers and duties relating to police benefit fund. (S. 909, 906-7.)

Arrange for purchase of group life insurance for employees of town. (S. 95a, 1949 Supplement.)

Reinstatement of Employee after Military Service. (S. 89a, 1949 Supplement.)

Removals.

Civil service commissioners. (S. 870.)
Dog warden. (S. 3382.)
Local fire marshal. (S. 3670.)
Superintendent of highways and bridges. (S. 614.)

Reports. From boards of gas and electrical commissioners. (S. 716, 718.)

Vacancies, Filling of. The selectmen may fill vacancies in town offices, unless and until the town elects or appoints; and in offices to which they have power of appointment. (S. 517.) There are specific provisions with respect to the following:

Board of gas and electrical commissioners. (S. 717.)
Board of police commissioners. (S. 658.)
Civil service commissioners. (S. 870.)
Registrar of voters. (S. 511, 993.)
Town Clerk. (S. 506.)
Town health officer. (S. 3847.)
Town manager. (S. 617.)
Town treasurer. (S. 506.)
Zoning board of appeals. (S. 841.)

Vacancies—Notification to Secretary of the State. The first selectman shall notify the Secretary of the State of a vacancy in the office of town clerk within five days. (S. 1093.)

Workmen's Compensation. A town is subject to employers' liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act, if it has regularly three employees or more. If the town has less than three employees it may choose to be bound by the Workmen's Compensation Act. (S. 614a, 1949 Supplement.) An employee shall mean any person who has entered into or works under any contract of service or apprenticeship with the town as employer. It shall also include any salaried officer or paid member of any police department or fire department. It shall also include any elected or appointed official or agent of the town, upon vote of the proper authority of the town. (S. 612a, 1949 Supplement.)

If the town is responsible for providing workmen's compensation to its employees, it must insure its liability or prove financial ability in one of the other ways provided by law. (S. 7453.)

PENALTIES

Scattered through the statutes are provisions penalizing the selectmen for neglect or wrongful performance of duty or violation of law. The penalties are usually fines or imprisonment or both. Penalties are provided for the following: For wilfully authorizing or contracting for expenditures or debts in excess of appropriations, except for the necessary repair of roads or bridges, or the necessary support of schools or paupers. (S. 271.) For neglecting to perform the duties of office. (S. 526.) For drawing any order on the town treasurer except in duplicate or upon a blank order which is attached to a blank form of stub, such duplicate or stub to contain a comprehensive statement of the amount and purpose for which such order is drawn. (S. 535.) For failure to require of the town treasurer a sufficient bond. (S. 536.) For failure to carry out duties in the indexing and preservation of land records. (S. 538.) For the employment of private detectives, when not in accordance with the statutes. (S. 664.)

In a town with a board of finance, for expending money not appropriated in accordance with the statutes. (S. 781.) For a false report on finances of the town. (S. 829.) For failing to comply with the law on uniform accounting systems. (S. 830.) For failure to warn any electors' meeting, when it is their duty to do so. (S. 1118.) For being in session for the purpose of admitting electors except upon the days prescribed by law. (S. 1120.) For neglect of duty or fraud in connection with elections or admission of electors. (S. 1121.) For neglect of duty or doing prohibited act in connection with law on voting machines. (S. 1217.) For failure to perform the duty of enrolling officer for the state militia. (S. 1230.) For violating specified provisions of the statutes on the levy, assessment and collection of taxes. (S. 1831, 1851.) For failure to open highway blocked with snow. (S. 2132.) First selectman, for failing to close highway laid out in violation of law. (S. 2141.)

For not furnishing necessary support to pauper not an inhabitant of the town. (S. 2595.) For failure to remove child with specified disease from county temporary home, when requested by the board of management of the home. (S. 2829.) For placing or retaining a child between six and eighteen in the almshouse, except as provided by law. (S. 2832.) For failure to report the existence of glanders or farcy. (S. 3315.) For delivering a corpse for medical and surgical study in violation of law. (S. 4220.) For keeping sums in excess of salary. (S. 8597.) For unlawfully taking commissions, rewards and gratuities. (S. 8599-8600.) For embezzlement. (S. 8692.) For fraud. (S. 8700.)

PLANNING

The chief executive officer of the municipality is to be a member of the planning commission. (S. 854.)

Municipal improvements must be submitted to the planning commission for approval. No action shall be taken by any municipal agency on any proposal involving the location, acceptance, widening, narrowing or extension of streets, bridges, parkways and other public ways, the location, relocation, acquisition of land for, or the abandonment, sale or lease of, airports, parks, playgrounds and other municipally-owned properties and public buildings, the extent and location of public utilities and terminals, whether publicly or privately owned, for water, sewerage, light, power, transit and other purposes, and for the extent and location of public housing projects and the redevelopment, reconditioning or improvement of specific areas until it has been referred to the commission for a report. The failure of the commission to report within thirty days after the date of official submission to it shall be taken as approval of the proposal. In case of disapproval, the proposal may be adopted by a majority vote in town meeting. (S. 857.)

POLICING

The town may enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of State Police for the detailing of a resident state policeman in two or more adjoining towns, if they lack an organized police force. The towns shall pay an equal share of the cost. The agreement is for a two-year period. (S. 3647.)

The town may apply to the county sheriff for the appointment of a deputy sheriff. (S. 460.)

Appoint special constables, who may serve for terms of not more than six months or during any public celebration or gathering or any riot or unusual exitement. (S. 539.) Appoint watchmen of factory buildings and other persons as special constables in the buildings and upon the grounds of factories. These special constables must be residents of the town, and shall furnish bond as required of regular constables. (S. 540.) Appoint special constables for agricultural societies, cemetery associations or other associations owning or having temporary control of grounds used for the lawful purposes of the society or association. (S. 541.) Appoint school janitors and other persons nominated by the town board of education as special constables for truancy and other school matters. (S. 542.) Appoint the janitor of any public building as a special constable in and about the building. He must be sworn. The appointment may be revoked. Both appointment and revocation must be in writing and filed with the town clerk. (S. 543.) No person not a citizen of the state may be appointed as a special constable. (S. 608.)

Appoint a police surgeon and define his duties and determine his compensation. (S. 673.)

The first selectman may request the county coroner to appoint an assistant medical examiner for the town. (S. 470.)

Power of selectman to disperse a riotous assembly. (S. 8506, 8508.) Request assistance from governor or senior officer of national guard in case of riot or commotion. (S. 1260-61.)

Power of selectman to disperse persons loitering or idling on or near highways. (S. 8510.)

Expend a sum not exceeding $500 during any one year for the detection and prosecution of crime. (S. 544.)

Offer a reward, not exceeding $200, to the person giving information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person guilty of a high crime in the town. (S. 8270.)

Apply to governor to offer a reward for information leading to the conviction of a person guilty of unlawful disinterment of a corpse. (S. 8271.)

Erect or lease a lockup for persons awaiting trial. (S. 654.)

If a justice of the peace dies before drawing an order for the costs in a criminal proceeding, any person interested may apply to the selectmen who may draw such an order. (S. 8737.)

PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS

Dangerous Conditions. The town may complain to the Public Utilities Commission concerning electrolysis or escape of electricity. (S. 5404.) The town may complain to the Public Utilities Commission of any defects in plant or equipment which endanger public safety or the health or safety of employees. (S. 5402.)

Highways and Bridges. The town may apply for a writ of mandamus against any corporation bound to restore or repair any highway or bridge. (S. 8224.)

Livery Service. The Public Utilities Commission shall notify the first selectman of a hearing on an application to operate a motor vehicle in livery service. (S. 5725.)

Motor Busses. The town may bring a petition to the Public Utilities Commission in respect to routes, fares, speed, schedules, continuity of service and the convenience and safety of passengers and the public. (S. 5706.)

The Public Utilities Commission shall notify the first selectman of a hearing on an application to operate a motor bus in the town. (S. 5706.)

Railroads. Alteration of highway made unsafe by railroad occupation. (S. 2153.)

The Public Utilities Commission shall notify the selectmen of an order permitting the construction of a railroad at a highway crossing at grade (S. 5486); or of a hearing to determine whether a highway crossed by a railroad at grade should be altered (S. 5491.); or of a hearing to determine whether obstructions to view shall be removed. (S. 5494.)

Request the Public Utilities Commission to order a railroad company to change the location of a highway near a railroad. (S. 5498, 5500.) Request the Public Utilities Commission to order an alteration or removal of grade crossing; procedure; specifications. (S. 5489.) The town may request the Public Utilities Commission to issue an order, if a change is necessary in a highway which passes over or under a railroad. (S. 5495.)

Request the Public Utilities Commission to order a railroad company to comply with the law requiring guards for rails. (S. 5506.)

Footways on railroad bridges and causeways. (S. 5509.)

Request the Public Utilities Commission to make orders concerning commercial or industrial sidetracks at grade, upon or across any highway. (S. 5520.) Request the Public Utilities Commission to order non-use or regulate use of tracks for switching purposes. (S. 5539.)

Request Public Utilities Commission to order sounding of engine whistle (S. 5534.); or to order omission of blowing of engine whistle. (S. 5535.)

Request Public Utilities Commission to order installation of gates, flagman, or signal devices. (S. 5541.)

The town shall place and maintain warning signs at grade crossings. The signs shall be furnished by the railroad company. Such signs shall conform as nearly as practicable to the standard road marking signs as adopted and revised by the American Association of State Highway Officials, and, wherever practicable, shall be placed in conspicuous locations beside the highway at a distance of not less than three hundred feet nor more than five hundred feet from the nearest rail of such crossing. By application to the Public Utilities Commission, the town may be released from this obligation in the case of any crossing if the placing of the signs is impracticable or unnecessary. (S. 5542.)

The first selectman may request the Public Utilities Commission to require a railroad company to bulletin the arrival and departure of all trains over ten minutes late. (S. 5552.)

Request Public Utilities Commission to order a railroad company to stop a passenger train at a station where it has not been stopping. (S. 5524.)

Any person claiming to be aggrieved by the neglect of a railroad company to provide reasonable connecting facilities may petition the Public Utilities Commission with the written approval of the selectmen. (S. 5451.) The selectmen may complain to the Public Utilities Commission regarding connecting facilities. (S. 5454.)

The state is to reimburse the town for any amount assessed against the town for the removal of a grade crossing in a highway which was in existence before the railroad. (S. 5497.)

The Public Utilities Commission shall examine any railroad or street railway within the limits of the town, upon a request in writing from the selectmen. (S. 5441.)

Rates. The town may complain to the Public Utilities Commission regarding discriminatory or unreasonable rates. (S. 5411.)

Street Railways. (Reference to these provisions in the statutes are omitted because they are largely obsolete, and concern few towns. S. 5573-5626.)

Taxicabs. Towns may petition the Public Utilities Commission in respect to fares, service, operation or equipment or the convenience, protection, and safety of passengers and the public. (S. 5718.)

The Public Utilities Commission shall notify the first selectman of a hearing on an application to operate a taxicab service. (S. 5718.)

Telegraph, Telephone, Illuminating, Power and Water Companies. The selectmen shall have full direction and control over the placing, erection and maintenance of wires, conductors, fixtures, structures or apparatus, including relocation or removal and the power of designating the kind, quality

and finish thereof. The selectmen may make all orders necessary to the exercise of these powers; the orders shall be made within thirty days of any application and shall be in writing and recorded in the records of the town, and written notice of any order shall be given to each party affected. These powers of the selectmen are limited by powers granted to the public utilities commission, adjoining proprietors, and tree wardens in S. 5645 and 5655. There is a right of appeal to the Public Utilities Commission from orders of the selectmen. (S. 5646.)

If required by the authority having jurisdiction over the maintenance of a public highway, an application to open or make an excavation shall be made to such authority. The latter may, in writing, grant a permit for the opening or excavation upon such terms and conditions as to the manner in which such work shall be carried on as may be reasonable. The action taken by the authority is subject to an appeal to the Public Utilities Commission. (S. 5640, 5642.)

The town has the right to occupy and use telephone and telegraph poles for municipal signal wires; specifications. (S. 5644.)

Consent to cutting of wires, or disconnection or removal, for transportation of any object on the highway or on any waterway. (S. 5649.)

The Public Utilities Commission shall notify the selectmen of a hearing on an application to construct or extend a telephone system. (S. 5662.)

RECEIVERS FOR ASSOCIATIONS

Apply to the superior court for a receiver of the property of an association, community or corporation organized for the support of its members; procedure. (S. 8241.)

RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

All public records of the town shall be kept in fireproof vaults, safes, or buildings; specifications. (S. 552.)

The selectmen are responsible for the preservation and indexing of land records of the town. During the month of September they shall appoint some suitable person to examine the indexes of the records. In September they shall also ascertain the condition of all records of the town and cause any volume of such records to be carefully repaired, arranged in order of pages and rebound, whenever such repairs and rebinding shall be necessary for the preservation of the records. In any town where there is no general index, the selectmen shall appoint some person to make one; and the town shall pay the cost. (S. 538.)

The selectmen shall pay for record books, stationery, and supplies for the town clerk. The town shall pay for having public record books bound, completed, repaired, etc. (S. 550.)

The selectmen shall provide a fireproof safe, vault, or building for probate records; a unanimous vote of all selectmen of the town or towns composing the probate district is necessary to authorize a vault or fireproof building; the expense for districts having two or more towns shall be divided in proportion to the grand lists of the towns. (S. 6822.)

The first selectman shall authorize expenditures of more than $300 for repairs or copying records in any probate district composed of two or more towns. (S. 550.)

The town pays for the record books and supplies of the probate judge. When the district is composed of two or more towns, the cost is to be apportioned according to the grand lists. (S. 6820.)

Provide cases containing cards 37 inches long by 25 inches wide upon which shall be posted maps prepared by landowners of surveys and plots. (S. 7125.)

Conditions under which documents may be destroyed. (S. 695.)

When and under what conditions records may be turned over to the state librarian for preservation. (S. 1633.)

Photographic reproduction of documents. (S. 8887-89.)

SANITATION

A town with a sewerage system may contract with any adjoining town or property owner therein for connection with and the use of such sewerage system. (S. 635.)

The town may transport garbage, refuse animal matter, bones, fat, or other rejected, unwholesome or waste substances to another town or out of the state for treatment; procedure. (S. 4144.)

When town may be required by the State Water Commission to prepare a preliminary survey to determine the cost of correcting the pollution of waters of the state by the town; submission of report to State Water Commission. (S. 4043.)

Complaint to State Department of Health concerning pollution of waters of the state; appeal to courts. (S. 4036-37.)

SHELL-FISHERIES

Appoint committee to designate places for planting or cultivating oysters, clams, or mussels. (S. 5069.)

Make recommendations to the town meeting with respect to request of landowner to dam a salt-water creek or outlet for an oyster pond. (S. 5083.)

A town may bring action against a person claiming any natural oyster or clam bed, which has been designated, enclosed, or staked out contrary to law. (S. 5082.)

Designation of places to be used to plant or cultivate oysters, clams, or mussels by persons who apply. (S. 503a, 1949 Supplement, 5077, 5086.) Provision of book for recording applications. (S. 5078.)

Determine quantity of clams to be taken by one person in one day, or prohibit taking of clams; procedure. (S. 5067.)

Petition court to determine a dispute with the state shell-fish commissioners as to boundaries of the area under exclusive jurisdiction of the state. (S. 5025.)

In addition to these provisions, the General Statutes contain a number of provisions applying to particular towns. By towns, they are as follows: Branford, S. 5102; Clinton, S. 5096; East Haven, S. 5079; East Lyme, S. 5094; Fairfield, S. 5076; Guilford, S. 5087, 5098-99; Madison, S. 5087, 5097; Milford, S. 5070, 5115; Stratford, S. 5064; Waterford, S. 5094; West Haven, S. 5071, 5073, 5079, 5115; Westport, S. 5070, 5091.

SIGNPOSTS

One or more signposts shall be erected and maintained in each town, at such place or places as the selectmen shall designate. Each town may order any additional signpost to be erected in it; and the selectmen of any town may change the location of any signpost therein, but any change so made shall be approved by a vote of the town at its next annual meeting thereafter. (S. 626.)

STRAY ANIMALS; LOST GOODS

Impound specified stray animals. (S. 3415-16.) Determine sufficiency of fence of enclosure into which animals have strayed, under certain conditions. (S. 3417.)

If any person finds any stray beast or lost goods and the owner does not claim them within twelve months, the selectmen may recover them for the use of the town; conditions. (S. 7292.)

TOWN MEETING

Warning and Notice. The warning of each town meeting shall specify the objects for which the meeting is to be held. It shall be signed by at least a majority of the selectmen.

Either a printed or written copy of the warning must be posted upon each of the signposts in the town, and the warning must appear in a newspaper published or circulated in the town. Any town may, at an annual meeting, designate additional places at which the warnings shall be posted. The posting and publication shall be at least five days previous to holding the meeting, including the day that notice is given but not including the day of holding the meeting. The selectmen shall, on or before the day of the meeting, leave a copy of the warning with the town clerk and he shall record it. (S. 493.)

The person who gives notice of the warning shall make a written statement to the town clerk showing the notice given. This statement shall be kept on file and recorded at length with the warning or doings of such meeting. (S. 494.)

Special Town Meeting. Convene special town meetings when deemed necessary; on application of twenty inhabitants qualified to vote in town meetings, a special town meeting shall be called within ten days after the application is received. (S. 491.)

TOWN REPORTS

If there is no board of finance or corresponding board in the town, the selectmen shall annually prepare and have published a town report. (S. 835.)

The town report is required by law to include the following:

An itemized estimate by the selectmen of the current expenses of the departments of the town for the ensuing year. (S. 1803.)

Certain information from the audit. If an independent public accountant has made the audit, his certificate as to the scope of the audit and his comments and recommendations shall be included. If the state tax commissioner has made the audit, his comments and recommendations shall be included. (S. 824.)

Towns with a population of 5,000 or less shall publish their receipts and expenditures in detail. (S. 835.)

A list of uncollectible taxes. (S. 1846.)

A list of tax abatements. (S. 1805-6.)

The statement of the tax collector as to tax collections; specifications. (S. 1848.)

The statement of the tax collector as to the amount of each tax refund. (S. 1812.)

The report of the town health officer. (S. 3847.)

The report of the town treasurer as to the condition of the municipal reserve fund, if any. (S. 796.)

The account of disbursements of the superintendent of highways and bridges, if any. (S. 613.)

TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

The board of selectmen is the local traffic authority except, in general, when the town has a police force or has within it a city or borough which has a police force. (S. 2516.)

Establish speed limits on streets, highways and bridges wholly within the municipality under their jurisdiction. Such limit shall become effective only after application for approval has been submitted in writing to the State Traffic Commission and a certificate of such approval has been forwarded by the commission to the traffic authority; and provided the signs giving notice of the speed limits have been erected as the commission shall direct. Approval of the speed limits may be revoked by the commission at any time and thereupon such speed limits shall cease to be effective and any signs that have been erected shall be removed. (S. 2407.)

Designation of through ways (S. 2520, 249a, 1949 Supplement.); designation of one-way streets (S. 2521.); establishment of safety zones (S. 2522.); establishment of bus stops and public service motor vehicle stands (S. 250a, 1949 Supplement.); establishment of public taxi stands in connection with hotels (S. 2524.); restriction of parking (S. 2525.); determination of the location of loading and unloading zones (S. 2526.); removal of prohibited signs, signals and markings. (S. 2528.)

Limitations on installation of traffic control signals. (S. 2518.)

Regulation of pedestrian traffic. (S. 2519.)

Make rules and regulations, including temporary regulations. (S. 2529.)

Approval of state traffic commission necessary when town action involves trunk line or state aid highway. (S. 2527.)

Erect and maintain warning signs for schoolhouses, ends of hard-surface highways, bridges, dangerous curves, and intersecting highways. (S. 2137.)

Authorities of the town shall have power to establish and enforce ordinances fixing traffic routes and public stands for public service vehicles and traffic rules for all vehicles. (S. 2485.)

The authority having charge of the repair or maintenance of any highway or bridge may grant permits for transporting heavy vehicles or other objects not conforming to the detailed provisions of the statutes; conditions; this power does not apply to motor vehicles. (S. 2497.)

TRUSTEE

Apply to probate court for appointment of a trustee of the estate of a person who has disappeared. (S. 6892.)

VETERANS

Any town may establish a local veterans' advisory committee. The town may join with other towns and cities in establishing the committee. (S. 301a, 1949 Supplement.)

Apply to state authorities for headstone or memorial stone for veterans missing in action or whose bodies were not brought home for interment. (S. 2942-43.)

Payment of burial expenses of veteran of World War II, if veteran left insufficient estate. (S. 2940.)

Care of graves of soldiers and sailors. (S. 653.)

WATERWORKS

The town may take and use lands, springs, streams or ponds to provide a water supply; procedure. (S. 4028.)

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Provide standards of weights and measures; appoint an inspector of weights and measures and fix his salary. (S. 6752.)

Towns may delegate to the selectmen power to make regulations and prescribe fees for public weighers. (S. 610.)

WELFARE

Almshouses. When children between six and eighteen may not be placed or retained in an almshouse. (S. 2832.)

If a town maintains an almshouse the selectmen shall have a physician examine all the inmates at least once in six months to determine if any are feeble-minded or mentally ill. If the physician finds any such inmate, the selectmen shall forthwith institute proceedings for commitment to an institution for the mentally ill or feeble-minded. (S. 2599.) If the selectmen fail to have the examination made, the public welfare council has it made and the town pays for it. The cost of proceedings for commitment, and three dollars per week for the support of any person committed to a state institution, shall be paid to the state by the town in which the person resides. (S. 2600.)

If the selectmen have supervision of an almshouse, they shall have the inmates examined for tuberculosis twice a year; they shall remove those with tuberculosis; they shall submit a sworn statement to the State Tuberculosis Commission that the examination has been given. (S. 4121.)

Blind. Aid to the needy blind is provided in the same way as old age assistance. (S. 2891.)

Grant a permit to the state board of education of the blind to operate in the town building or on town property. (S. 1618.)

Children. (a) **Adoption.** The selectmen may give in adoption any foundling child of whom they are in charge; procedure. (S. 6866-67.)

(b) **Aid to dependent children.** Receive any application under the law for aid to dependent children and forward it to the State Commissioner of Welfare. (S.2899.) (Before October 1, 1950, the towns were required to pay three-tenths of the cost of aid to dependent children. On that date, however, the provisions of a 1949 law came into effect, and the towns no longer share in the cost. S. 293a, 1949 Supplement. Aid to dependent children is a state-administered program.)

(c) **Bastardy.** When the town may maintain a bastardy suit. (S. 8182.) When the selectmen must consent to the settlement of a bastardy case by agreement of the mother and putative father. (S. 8181.) The selectmen shall have general supervision of the welfare of an illegitimate child, when the mother does not properly apply the weekly allowance paid by the father under court order. (S. 8180.) When the town must support the father of an illegitimate child kept in jail for disobeying a court order. (S. 8185.)

(d) **Boarding homes for children.** Receive reports from any person who makes a business of taking children under ten years of age to entertain or board. The selectmen, or some person appointed by them, shall inspect such boarding homes at least monthly and file a report with the local registrar of vital statistics; specifications. (S. 4179-80.)

The Commissioner of Welfare shall notify the selectmen of an application for a license to maintain a boarding home for children in the town. (S. 2640.)

(e) **County temporary home.** The selectmen may place children in the county temporary home. The terms, as to the length of time the children stay shall be by agreement with the board of management of the home. The town committing the children to the home shall pay for their support; but it may receive reimbursement from the town to which they are chargeable. The cost shall be not less than $1.50 nor more than $2.00 weekly per child. (S. 2832-33.) No child who is mentally ill, feeble-minded, blind, so crippled or so deaf as to require special care, tubercular or suffering from any incurable or contagious disease shall be committed to the county temporary home; and such child shall be removed from the home by the selectmen at the request of the board of management. (S. 2829.)

(f) **Crippled children.** The selectmen may apply to the Commissioner of Welfare to have a crippled child admitted to The Newington Home for Crippled Children; or the Commissioner of Welfare may order the selectmen to take a crippled child to the Home. The child must be of sound mind; he must be a cripple, or afflicted with poliomyelitis or other non-contagious crippling disease; the child or the relatives legally liable for his support must be unable to pay the full cost of treating such disease; and the child and one of such relatives must have legal settlement in Connecticut. The state pays $9.00 per week for the child; the town to which the child belongs shall pay all or part of the balance of the costs which the child or the relatives are unable to pay; however, the town does not pay more than $2.00 per week. (S. 2609.)

(g) **Guardian.** Apply to the probate court for the removal as guardian of one or both parents of a minor child; procedure. (S. 6850.)

(h) **Neglected, uncared-for, dependent, delinquent children.** Petition to the juvenile court. (S. 2807.) Payment by the state to the town of settlement of the child three-tenths of moneys collected by the juvenile court from parents, guardians, custodians or other adult persons, owing some legal duty to the child, when the town has made payments in behalf of the child. (S. 2805.)

Apply to the juvenile court for the commitment of a neglected or uncared-for child under six years. Receive notice of the hearing on an application made by someone else; the selectmen have the right to be heard as to the commitment. The town in which the child resides is responsible for the expense of any temporary commitment; but the town shall be reimbursed by the town liable for the child's support, or by the state if no town is liable. For permanent commitment the town of settlement is responsible for three-tenths of the expenses. The selectmen may apply for the revocation of a commitment. (S. 2634.)

The selectmen may temporarily place a dependent, defective delinquent, neglected or uncared-for child under sixteen. The period shall not exceed thirty days, unless extended with the consent of the Commissioner of Welfare. The child may be placed in any licensed boarding home, agency or child-caring institution, within or without the state, or with a person related by blood to the child; the selectmen shall, if possible, select a place of the same religious faith as that of the parent of the child, if the faith is known or may be ascertained by reasonable inquiry, provided the place conforms to the standards of the Commissioner of Welfare. The selectmen shall forthwith notify the commissioner on forms prescribed by him of the beginning and the termination of the placement. The commissioner may make an investigation of the case of the child and may have made a thorough physical and mental examination; the expense for this shall be paid by the town in which the child resides, but the town shall be reimbursed by the state for seven-tenths of this expense. The commissioner may supervise the care and placement of the child, and may make orders for his welfare. If the commissioner finds that the care given the child during the first thirty days meets his approval, the state shall reimburse the town for not more than seven-tenths of the cost of the care; however, in the case of a dependent child, the town shall pay the entire cost. (S. 2634.) (See also Aid to Dependent Children, page 42.)

(i) **Responsibility of the town for support of committed children.** If a court commits a child to an institution or custodial agency not supported in whole or in part by the state, the town of settlement shall reimburse the state for any of its costs for support that the parent or parents of the child are not ordered to pay by the court. (S. 2844.)

If a child in the county temporary home is committed to a private person or institution, the town is no longer responsible; specifications. (S. 2836.)

Conservator. Apply to the probate court for the appointment of a conservator of a person who is incapable of managing his affairs. (S. 6874.) The court also shall notify one of the selectmen of a hearing on an application by a husband, wife, or relative of an incapable person for the appointment of a conservator. (S. 6875.) Apply to the probate court for the appointment of a new conservator when a person moves to the town from a town in another probate district and becomes a settled inhabitant. (S. 6881.)

Deceased Persons. Any public institution may have a crematory; but no body shall be cremated if the body is claimed and removed by the authorities of the town in which the person had a settlement; any body may be cremated with the consent of such town authorities. (S. 4724.)

Burial of deceased persons after termination of proceedings by medical examiner and coroner. If there are no friends who will take charge of the body and bury it, the body is delivered to the proper authorities of the town which it is lying, and it is their duty to bury it. The town shall pay any expenses of burial that cannot be paid from the property of the deceased. (S. 484.)

Detention Homes. Towns are authorized to provide or maintain detention homes for children or persons accused of crime. (S. 2845.)

Inebriates. Apply to the probate court for the commitment of any person who shall have become an habitual drunkard, a dipsomaniac or so addicted to the intemperate use of narcotics or stimulants as to have lost the power of self-control. The application is made by the selectmen of the town in which the person resides; or when his place of residence is out of the state or unknown, of the town in which he may be at the time of the filing of the complaint. (S. 271a, 1949 Supplement.)

Mental Defectives. Apply to a probate court for the commitment of a mentally deficient, feeble-minded or epileptic person to the Mansfield State Training School and Hospital or the Southbury Training School. In the case of a pauper the application must be made by the selectmen of the town in which the person resides; if the person is not a pauper the selectmen may make the application. If an application is made by a party other than the selectmen, the court appoints one of the selectmen to investigate and report as to the residence and estate of the person and as to the financial responsibility of those responsible for his support. (S. 267a, 268a, 1949 Supplement.) Liability of the town for the cost of maintenance of inmates in these institutions. (S. 266a, 269a, 1949 Supplement.) Liability of an epileptic or feeble-minded person for any sum paid by the town for his care, treatment and support, and method of recovery. (S. 2588.)

Mentally Ill Persons. Apply to a probate court for the commitment to a hospital for mental illness of any mentally ill person who shall be at large and dangerous to the community. (S. 2644.); or of any mentally ill person who is a pauper. (S. 2650.)

When an application is made to the probate court for the commitment of an indigent person who is not a pauper, the probate court appoints one of the selectmen to make a report of the facts relating to the person's residence, the value of the person's estate, and the financial responsibility of the person or persons legally liable for the person's support. (S. 2651.)

Responsibility of the town for support in a hospital for mental illness. (S. 2649-50, 2657, 2660-61, 2663-64, 2670, 2685.)

Liability of a mentally ill person for any sum paid by the town for his care, treatment and support, and method of recovery. (S. 2588.)

When any mentally ill person who ought to be confined shall go at large in any town other than the town of his residence, the selectmen of the town where he is at large may cause him to be removed to the town where he has residence. (S. 2676.)

Contract with the Institute of Living at Hartford for the support of any mentally ill person. (S.537.)

Narcotic Addicts. The first selectman shall apply to the probate court for the commitment of a narcotic addict to a state hospital for mental illness. (S. 265a, 1949 Supplement.)

If a narcotic addict is a public charge, the probate court shall require the first selectman to find out whether the addict, or any person responsible for his support, has any property and report to the court. The town's financial responsibility for the care of narcotic addicts is the same as for other persons committed to mental hospitals. (S. 265a, 1949 Supplement.)

Apply to the probate court for the commitment of a narcotic addict to an inebriate asylum or to an idividual. (S. 2720.)

Non-support Cases. When a bond or recognizance in a non-support case is collected or forfeited, the court may order the money paid over to the selectmen, who shall administer it for the benefit of the wife or children. (S. 8590.)

Old Age Assistance. The public official charged with the administration of public assistance in the town shall receive applications for old age assistance and forward them to the State Commissioner of Welfare. (S. 2872.) If there is an appeal from the decision of the commissioner on the application, the commissioner shall notify this local public official of the hearing on the appeal. (S. 284a, 1949 Supplement.) (Old age assistance is a state-administered program.)

Paupers. (a) The selectmen are overseers of the poor. (S. 2588.)

(b) **Determining whether a person is a pauper.** All persons who have not estate sufficient for their support, and have no relatives of sufficient ability who are obliged by law to support them, shall be provided for. (S. 2585.)

No person shall receive support from any town until he has made a full disclosure of his financial condition to the selectmen, and, if requested by them, has signed and sworn to the same. (S. 2589.)

The following are required to make full disclosure as to any property of or indebtedness to any person applying for or receiving support from the town: anyone having in his possession or control any property of the person; anyone indebted to the person; anyone having knowledge of any property belonging to the person; any officer having control of the books and accounts of any corporation which has possession or control of any property belonging to the person or is indebted to him. The disclosure shall be made upon presentation by the selectmen or their attorney of a certificate stating that the person has applied for or is receiving support from the town. (S. 2590.)

No resident of a town shall be ineligible to receive relief from the town because he has an interest in real property. However, he must agree to reimburse the town for such relief; specifications. (S. 2591.)

(c) **Dealing with the pauper.** The selectmen shall provide all articles necessary for the subsistence of paupers. (S. 2588.)

Medical treatment shall be provided when there is a need for it. However, it shall not be provided by contract by auction to the lowest bidder. (S. 2586.)

A decent burial shall be provided. This shall include a stained wood or crepe-covered casket, suitably trimmed and enclosed in an outside pine box. This applies to a pauper who is not an inhabitant of the town where he resides or who is a state pauper. (S. 258a, 1949 Supplement.)

Paupers shall be liable to be removed to such places as the selectmen may lawfully designate, to be supported as the town or selectmen may direct, and shall be subject to the orders of the selectmen. (S. 2594.)

All paupers shall be supported at some place or places within the town to which they belong or in a town adjoining that to which they belong. However, if there is no suitable place in the town or in an adjoining town, they may be supported in any suitable place within the county in which they belong. (S. 2601.)

No individual shall have any claim against a town for supplies or assistance furnished to a pauper against the express directions of the selectmen, nor before he has given notice of the condition of such pauper to one of the selectmen of the town where the pauper resides. (S. 2594.)

(d) **Care of paupers who are residents of but do not have settlement in the town.** When a person not an inhabitant of the town in which he resides shall become poor and unable to support himself, the selectmen of such town shall furnish him with necessary support as soon as his condition shall come to their knowledge. (S. 2595.)

Each town, through its selectmen, shall, unless such support shall be otherwise provided for by the state, furnish necessary support to all state paupers therein or sent from such town to any hospital in Connecticut. (S. 2606.)

The Commissioner of Welfare may contract with any town for the support of state paupers for such time and on such terms as he may deem expedient for the best interests of the state. State paupers may be removed to such place and supported as the Commissioner of Welfare shall direct. (S. 2608.)

(e) **Who ultimately pays for support.** Each town shall maintain and support all the poor inhabitants belonging to it, whether residing in it or in any other town in the state. (S. 2585.)

When a town provides aid to a pauper who is a resident of the town but who is chargeable to another town, it may collect for the aid from the other town. The selectmen of the first town must give notice to the second town within fifteen days after they know to what town he belongs; the second town is not liable for any expense for the time during which there is a neglect to give notice. Notice consists of a letter deposited in the post office, postage paid, stating the name of the pauper, and that he is chargeable, signed by a selectman of the first town directed to the selectmen of the second town; actual notice in writing, sent in any other mode, shall be sufficient. The second town shall not be liable to pay more than the actual disbursements of the first town, nor at a greater rate than $7.00 a week for persons over 14 years of age, $6.00 a week for persons between 6 and 14, and $4.00 a week for persons less than 6. In addition, when persons are sick and receive medical attention, the second town shall not be liable to pay more than the actual disbursements of the first town, nor at a greater rate than $14.00 per week, nor if cared for or supported at a public hospital, the actual disbursements of the first town. Any hospital receiving state aid shall charge a uniform rate for paupers. In case of a dispute between towns as to liability, or as to the amount of the liability, the dispute may be referred to the Commissioner of Welfare after written agreement between the selectmen of the towns. The commissioner or his duly appointed representative decides the dispute after written notice and hearing to both parties; the parties shall have the right of subpoena, to appear by counsel and to present such witnesses as they shall desire. (S. 2595.) The town burying a pauper who is not an inhabitant of the town may recover the expense from the town to which the pauper belongs, but not exceeding $150. (S. 258a, 1949 Supplement.) The town incurring expense for aid to or burial of a pauper shall render to the town liable for the expense an itemized statement of the expense once in six months during the period that such expense is being incurred. (S. 2597.)

When a town renders aid to a state pauper it shall be reimbursed by the state. The procedure is as follows: Within five days after the selectmen begin to provide relief or support to a pauper, one of the selectmen shall forward to the Commissioner of Welfare a statement containing the facts, as they are known by the selectmen. The statement shall give the name of the pauper, the time he came into the state, and into the town, the place from which he came, the cost of the relief furnished to him, the time when the relief was first administered and any other information required, in the form prescribed by the commissioner and on blanks furnished by him; the statement shall be signed and sworn to by one of the selectmen. At the end of each quarter or when otherwise required by the commissioner, one of the selectmen shall send to the commissioner in the form prescribed by the commissioner, a statement of the cost to the town of the relief during the quarter; the statement shall be signed and sworn to by the selectmen. If the commissioner rejects this claim, the town may present the claim for further investigation to such committee as the General Assembly may appoint for the purpose. If this committee decides in favor of the claim, it shall be paid, together with the cost of travel and attendance of necessary witnesses and a sum of not more than $25.00 counsel fees. (S. 2606.) The state shall also pay the expense, but not more than $150, for the burying of a state pauper. (S. 258a, 1949 Supplement.)

The town is entitled to reimbursement from the pauper or his estate under certain circumstances. Any person who has been supported by the town is liable to pay a reasonable amount for the support. If he fails to pay, his executor, administrator or conservator shall be liable, provided he shall have sufficient assets in his hands belonging to the estate of the person. The amount may be recovered in a civil action, and the statute of limitations shall not be pleaded. (S. 2588.) If a person having an interest in real property receives support from the town, he is liable for reimbursing the town; procedure. (S. 2591-92.) When any person supported at the expense of any town shall die, leaving personal estate not exceeding fifty dollars in value, the selectmen of the town may sell it for the use of the town, unless some person interested in the estate shall take out administration thereon within ninety days after such death. (S. 2598.)

The town may take action to require relatives to provide support in certain circumstances. The following relatives are liable to provide support if they are able to do so; husband, wife, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, children, grandchildren. If they fail to do so, the selectmen may bring a complaint to the superior court. The superior court may order the relative or relatives to contribute; and the court may order that the money, when collected, be paid to the selectmen. (S. 2610.)

The town may take action to require heirs to provide support in certain circumstances. The action may be taken only if there are no relatives as listed in the preceding paragraph of sufficient ability to provide support. The estate of any person dying without issue, leaving a husband or wife surviving, shall be liable for the support of such surviving spouse until remarriage. Each person to whom the estate is given or descends shall be liable to contribute to the support of the surviving spouse; and the selectmen of the town in which the survivor resides may bring a complaint to the superior court, which may order a contribution that shall be paid to the selectmen. (S. 2611.)

The town may collect a forfeit from a person bringing an indigent person into the town under certain circumstances. (S. 2583.)

(f) **Deportation and removal.** The selectmen may have removed a pauper and his family to the town of settlement; specifications. (S. 2582.)

The selectmen may have deported a pauper who has settlement in another state; specifications. (S. 2581.)

The selectmen may require a person who brings into the town another person who becomes a pauper to remove him from the town; specifications. (S. 2583.)

The Commissioner of Welfare may enter into reciprocal agreements with other states regarding the interstate transportation of poor and indigent persons and arrange with the selectmen for the acceptance and support of persons receiving public aid in other states. (S. 259a, 1949 Supplement.) If such a person is committed to a state hospital for the mentally ill, the town of settlement may have to pay the expenses of commitment and support; specifications. (S. 261a, 1949 Supplement.)

(g) **Records and reports of the selectmen as overseers of the poor.** Overseers of the poor shall keep full and accurate records of the paupers fully supported, the persons relieved and partially supported and the travellers and vagrants lodged, in whole or in part, at the expense of the town, together with the amount paid by them for such support and relief. Monthly, or at such other periods not less than monthly as may be designated by the public welfare council and the Commissioner of Welfare, they shall make reports to the Commissioner of Welfare of the number of such persons supported, together with the cost, in the manner and on such forms as may be approved by the council and the Commissioner of Welfare. (S. 2602.)

Settlement

(a) **How gained by foreigners.** Non-citizens of the United States can gain settlement in any town in this state only if admitted to settlement (1) by a vote of the inhabitants of a town or (2) by consent of the selectmen and justices of the peace of a town. For admission to settlement by the selectmen and justices of the peace a quorum of the combined officers is necessary at a meeting called for the purpose of admitting one or more non-citizen residents to settlement. (S. 2574.)

(b) **How gained by inhabitants of other states.** A resident of another state who is an American citizen and who came to reside in a town in this state may gain legal settlement in such town by living in the town four years continuously during which time he must maintain himself and family free of public expense. He may also be admitted to settlement in the manner prescribed for the admission of foreigners or if he has lived continuously for one year in a town and owned unencumbered real estate valued at $500 and located within the state. In such case, if the title be by deed, such deed must have been recorded for at least one year. (S. 2575.)

(c) **How gained by inhabitants of other towns.** An inhabitant of a town in this state cannot gain legal settlement in another town unless he has resided in the second town four years continuously and during the entire period he must maintain himself and family without becoming a charge to the town and without having received aid from any other town or the state. He may also be admitted to legal settlement in the manner prescribed for foreigners. (S. 2576.)

(d) **How gained by a family.** If the head of a family with residence in any town in this state for only part of the required continuous four-year period during which time he has maintained himself and his family without becoming a public charge dies, his widow and minor children will gain settlement if they continue to live in the town for the balance of the four-year period without becoming public charges. (S. 2577.)

The settlement of a female at the time of her marriage to a man without a settlement in this state continues to herself and her minor children until her husband gains a settlement or until she and her minor children gain a settlement elsewhere. (S. 2577.)

(e) **When lost.** Any person having settlement in a town in this state who resides outside the town four consecutive years loses his settlement. This provision does not apply to a person absent from the town of settlement for service in the armed forces of the United States or to one confined in an institution. (S. 2578.)

(f) **When not changed by marriage.** When either of the parties to a marriage is receiving relief at the time of marriage, or has received relief within one year before marriage, the settlement of either party is not affected. The liability of the town or towns concerned continues as it was at the time of the marriage. (S. 2579.)

(g) **Children of state paupers.** A child born while its mother is being maintained by the state, or born in a hospital or benevolent institution while its mother is being maintained at public expense, has legal settlement in the town in which the mother is domiciled at the time of her admission to a hospital or institution provided the mother has no settlement in a town in this state. (S. 2580.)

Social Worker. The town may request the Commissioner of Welfare to provide a part-time social worker at the town's expense. (S. 2617.)

Tubercular Persons. For a tubercular patient in a state sanatorium, the town of legal settlement must pay the state any portion of four dollars per week that the patient or legally liable relatives are unable to pay. The town pays the state the four dollars and collects any portion of this from the patient or relatives who are able to pay. In addition, if the town is paying any part of the cost it must provide clothing prescribed by the State Tuberculosis Commission. (S. 4122.)

ZONING

When the selectmen may be empowered to act as a zoning commission for the town. (S. 836.)

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